THE GUIDE

March 2011 | Issue 256 | theguide.greatbritishlife.co.uk

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TOP 3 historical wedding venues in GREENWICH

Titanic: The Artefact Exhibition

An insight into the biggest show in town – the romance, the tragedy, the antiques

Cruise control

Take a spin in the luxurious Bentley Mulsanne

A cut above

Greenwich designer Sophie Cranston, the talent behind Libellula, is the name on everybody's lips… even Kate Middleton's

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Our contributors this month

GUY AWFORD
The Greenwich chef and restaurateur brings us a delicious new recipe to try at home every month

SAMANTHA BURLTON
Founder of So Organic in Greenwich, Samantha brings us the hottest news in natural and organic health and beauty

NIGEL JONES
The founder of Medlar & Cob Landscapes and Garden Design in Woolwich gets excited over the spring equinox

SONIA MURTON
Founder of Belle Interiors in Chislehurst, Sonia has her finger on the pulse of the latest in homes and interiors

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On the cover: Somebody's getting married... The magnificent Eltham Palace © Coaster / Alamy

FERGUS NOONE
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Kate Middleton wears Libelula's Dulwich coat. Meet designer Sophie Cranston on page 10

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Outrageous in orange with Shop Greenwich

www.shopgreenwich.co.uk
A collection of unique shops and stalls in Greenwich

Zing into Spring with this season's hottest colour. Brighten things up in the home and be on trend with a splash of citrus, golden amber or neon orange.

Calligraphy pillar candles from Blossom Candles, £10 - £20 Pure hand-rolled Beeswax candles, with a fragrant honey perfume. *At the Market on Sat and Sun, T: 01444 487 719, www.blossomcandles.com*

Carrot tea towel from Lush Designs, £10. Part of the series of vegetable designs, made from pure cotton. *8 College Approach, SE10 9HY, T: 020 8293 5662, www.lushlampshades.co.uk*

Golden Shred by Joanne Brierley from Red Door, £65. Digital textile and screen print, with heat pressed foils.*10 Turnpin Lane, SE10 9JA, T: 020 8858 2131, www.reddoorgallery.co.uk*

Alfie jumper from Emma Nissim, £45. Limited edition Fair Wear slash-neck jumper, featuring 'Alfie' and hand-printed in Greenwich. *10a Greenwich Market, SE10 9JA, T: 020 8853 3139, www.emmanissim.com*

Buddha mala from Dao, £28. 21-bead Chinese wrist mala for good fortune and longevity. *2 Greenwich Market, SE10 9HZ, T: 07780 852 239, www.daoonline.co.uk*

ANNIVERSARY
I 25
GREENWICH MARKET

4,5,6 March - Fairtrade Market, fashion show & events.
3 April - Mother's Day workshops.

www.shopgreenwich.co.uk

Notice anything different?

Yes, I have a whole page to myself, how very lovely and roomy. But it's not all about me; we have a whole lotta new pages this month bringing you more locally-inspired news in fashion, the arts, motoring, travel, family life, homes and property… phew, 'tis a lot!

It has been hard work readers, and we'd love to know what you think, so please do tell us what you would like to see more of and where we need to work a bit harder. Email us at yoursay@theguidemag.co.uk

So, back to business. I've been out and about, braving the cold, all over town this month. From hanging about outside the O2 trying to catch a glimpse of Cheryl Cole at the National Television Awards (her dress was a let down, wasn't it?), to a spot of sale shopping in Blackheath (thank you, Whistles!) and roaming about Well Hall Pleasuance, listening to the chirruping birds. On another trip to Eltham I called in to the Tudor Barn for a delicous meal at 1568 brasserie. Read all about it on page 52, and SE9 twitching on page 59.

We've also gone a little wedding crazy in this issue. Call us romantic, but all that Valentine's champagne, not to mention the Royal Wedding, has had an effect on us. Check out pages 35-39 for dresses and venues, and exquisite wedding jewellery. We've also interviewed Greenwich designer Sophie Cranston of design label Libelula, whose Dulwich coat was beautifully modeled by none other than Kate Middleton, on her way to a friend's nuptials. Libelula creates the most flattering, feminine dresses – not to mention wedding gowns – favoured by the likes of Emma Watson and Jerry Hall. Find out more on page 10.

Happy reading!

Victoria

Victoria Purcell
Editor
victoria.purcell@archant.co.uk

Model shown is Cayenne Diesel at £47,343 including metallic paint, roof rails, front underbody protection, first year road fund licence and first registration fee.

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Performance and efficiency are no longer mutually exclusive. The new Porsche Cayenne Diesel is 140 kg lighter than its predecessor and includes latest technology such as Auto Start/Stop and an 8-speed Tiptronic S transmission as standard. As a result, it achieves a combined fuel consumption of 38.2mpg, yet reaches 0-62 mph in just 7.8 seconds,
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The new Cayenne range includes Cayenne from £42,990*, Cayenne Diesel from £45,256, Cayenne S from £55,058, Cayenne S Hybrid from £59,058 and Cayenne Turbo from £84,972. Fuel consumption figures for Cayenne Diesel in mpg (l/100km): Urban 32.5 (8.7); Extra Urban 42.8 (6.6); Combined 38.2 (7.4). CO_2 emissions (g/km) 195.

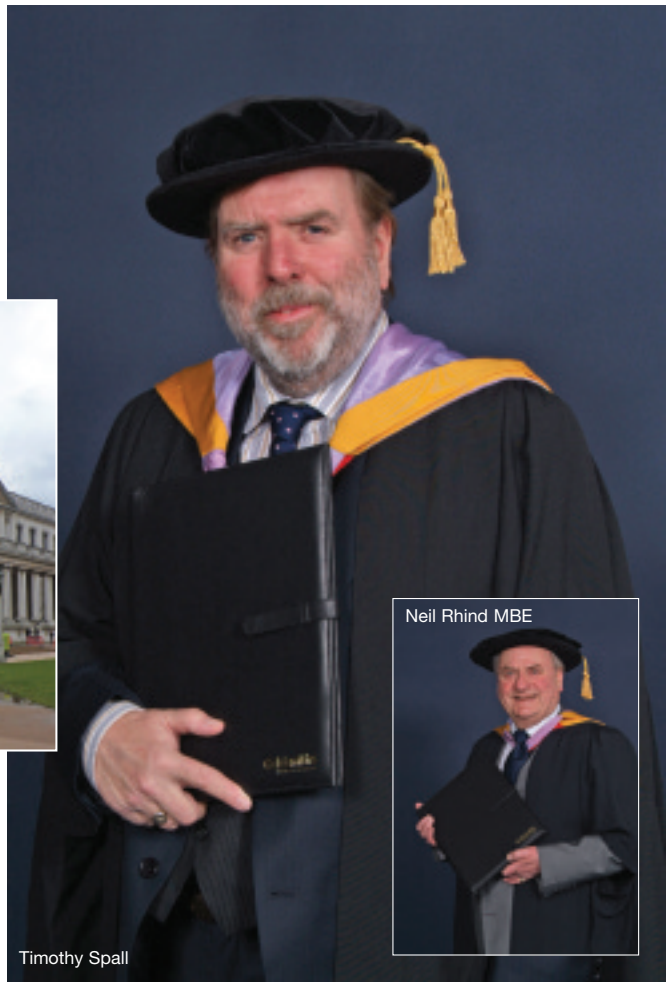
*Tiptronic S

NEWS*flash*

Lee Cheshire rounds up this month's local news and views

Holmes from home

The movie cameras have been rolling at the Old Royal Naval College again. They were shooting the sequel to *Sherlock Holmes* starring Robert Downey Jr and local-ish lad Jude Law. This time the crime-fighting duo are joined by Stephen Fry and Noomi Rapace, star of *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*. The movie is scheduled for release on 16 December. The complex's Baroque architecture is popular with filmmakers, you can also spot it in *Dorian Grey*, *The Golden Compass*, *The Duchess*, the new *Pirates of the Caribbean* and many more.



Timothy Spall

Neil Rhind MBE

Juice up, fork out

Driving in Greenwich is set to get easier – as long as you drive an electric vehicle. Four new charging points are now open at Blissett Street SE10 8UP, Horseferry Place SE10 9HG, Messetter Place SE9 5DP and East Parkside, John Harrison Way, SE10 0BG, taking the number in the borough to 10. Charging points can also be found near Sainsbury's on the peninsula and in the Royal Arsenal development. Users of the Elecktrobay scheme pay £100 a year for access to charging points across the city. Parking charges, however, are set to rise this year to £2.50 an hour in Greenwich town centre, while resident parking permits will nearly double.

Honours for locals

Local history expert Neil Rhind MBE has been awarded an honorary degree by New Cross-based university, Goldsmiths. His three-volume book *Blackheath Village and Environs* is the standard work of history for the area, he is a leading light of many local organisations and he has campaigned tirelessly as a conservationist to maintain the character and integrity of the area. Also receiving honorary degrees were politician Shirley Williams, artist Glenn Brown and actor Timothy Spall, who lives in Forest Hill.

Up the creek

Two new housing developments are to open up access to Deptford Creek. The schemes, which have been approved by Greenwich Council, include a waterside walk open to the public. They will replace the current industrial estates that block off access to the creek. The adjacent Hilton's Wharf and 30-52 Norman Road schemes, designed by local architects bptw, whose offices are based on the development site, will add a total of 170 new homes. The new developments are two of almost a dozen major housing developments being built along and around Deptford Creek.

News to share? Email us at yoursay@theguidemag.co.uk

DRESS SENSE

Sophie Cranston is like any other working mum with a cottage industry – except that Kate Middleton's a fan. **Shannon Denny** meets a Greenwich designer with the golden touch

Sophie Cranston

Sophie Cranston may stick fairly close to her SE10 home most days, but her creations have a habit of venturing significantly further. Today the designer behind the fashion label Libelula is nursing her four-month-old, delivering her toddler to and from playgroup and awaiting the arrival of the postman.

Her velvet dress coat, meanwhile, spent the weekend accompanying a certain princess-to-be to a wedding, the first Kate has attended since the announcement of her own engagement. Photographs of the garment on the most famous bride of 2011 have made their way all around the world.

All this might not have been if Sophie hadn't possessed "really fiddly fingers" as a young child. "I was always breaking things and driving everyone insane, so when I was six my mum sent me to the Royal School of Needlework every other Saturday. I used to sit with all the grannies and do tapestry and embroidery."

The journey from the Royal School of Needlework to outfitting an actual royal still had a few more twists and turns, of course. "At school it was the thing I was known for; I was 'Sophie who could sew'. I was always making people dresses for 20 quid, which I would then go buy sweets with." From there, she did her A-levels in textiles. "I had two teachers just for me – because no one else did sewing!"

She studied fashion design at university and honed her skills in the backrooms in Saville Row and Bellville Sassoon, the designer who made over 70 outfits for Princess Diana. At Graduate Fashion Week in 1999, Sophie won the prestigious Designer of the Year Award, an accolade she shares with luminaries including John Galliano, Christopher Bailey and Alexander McQueen.

She went on to work for McQueen himself, before setting up Temperley in 2000 with Alice Temperley.

The Temperley label became a huge success, but after a few years Sophie decided on a change of direction. "If I was going to work that hard I was going to do it on my own," she explains. She also realised the time was right to pursue a few dreams, so she bought a campervan with her sister and set off for Spain. The plan was to stay four months and learn Flamenco and Spanish.

The dancing and language education worked out according to plan, but the timeframe did not. "I completely and utterly fell in love with Spain and ended up being there for five years." Her money lasted a year, so after that Sophie-who-could-sew needed to make a living. Her needle and thread were an obvious place to start, and so her own range was born.

The label's name came about serendipitously, after the Spanish word she'd initially chosen revealed itself to be lacking. "I was actually going to call it something totally different that we found out meant 'gravedigger' and 'saucepan'," she laughs. "So we had to scrap that quite quickly!" When a dragonfly flew into her studio, she learned the Spanish word for the flitting creature – Libelula – and knew she'd found exactly the name she'd been seeking.

After meeting her husband – the English cousin of her Spanish housemates – at a wedding, it was time to return to England and settle down. With Sophie continuing to design, the couple had a little boy and set up residence in West London. "We were living in a tiny top-floor flat in Shepherd's Bush, and we found out I was pregnant with the second one," she remembers. "Then the house we were meant to buy fell through, and my husband was due to start a new job in Canary Wharf." They quickly looked on the map and decided Greenwich was their best bet, and here both the family and Libelula have thrived ever since. >>>

This picture: Kate Middleton wears Libelula's Dulwich coat to a friend's wedding. Far left: Millie dress, £375. Below: Vinnie dress, £390

IKON PICTURES / NIRAJ TANNA / REX FEATURES

<<<

Sophie focuses on creating collections that women love to wear to special occasions. "I have been to a lot of weddings where I've seen Libelula," she giggles. "The most was eight or nine people! That's quite exciting, a really lovely feeling." The secret to her success is exceptional cutting, and she relies on vintage techniques "because they tend to be flattering on everyone; in those days people really knew how to cut".

She trawls vintage fairs and the wardrobes of her friend's grannies, and will deftly modernise old silhouettes that she glimpses with today's tastes in mind. She'll then render these in her own prints inspired from postcards, vintage scarves, kimonos or even paintings. And before you know it, Libelula garments end up on the likes of Emma Watson, Jerry Hall and of course Miss Middleton.

She works around the clock, but seems to love sewing as much as she did as a six-year-old. "It's a bit funny to make your hobby your job, but for me it's worked." Indeed it has – and long may Libelula reign.

To shop and learn about upcoming sample sales see www.libelula-studio.com

Midi Zara dress, £230

Sarah dress, £245

Virginia dress, £430

Natalia dress, £189

Gee Dress, £310

Sophie's SPRING THEMES

FEMININITY

"When people wear my clothes their husbands and boyfriends say, 'Wow, you look amazing!' Women look like women in my clothes."

FLORALS

"This season there are about three florals [in my collection]: sweetpea, wisteria and a stripy flowery print."

SHIRTDRESSES

"I did shirtdresses because that's what I always want to wear. I think it's really easy to either dress them up or dress them down."

NUDE HUES

"When I'm working out my colour palettes I'm always aware of what people will and won't wear. Softer pinks and old rose are the colour stories this season."

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- Tower Bridge Antiques is not Harrods or the Kings Road but it's where you'll find the real bargains.
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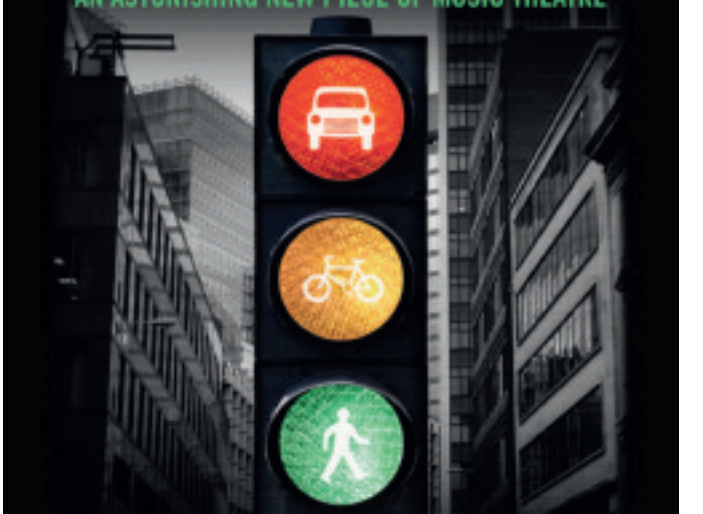

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The best events of the month ahead

PREVIEW

Yinka Shonibare with maquette
© James O Jenkins

Nelson's Ship in a Bottle

26-27 Feb

The National Maritime Museum celebrates Yinka Shonibare MBE's acclaimed Fourth Plinth commission, *Nelson's Ship in a Bottle*, with a weekend of free events. Shonibare will take part in a debate on trade, empire and contemporary art. Other events include a live action origami recreation of the battle of Trafalgar and a discussion of London's textile culture. Boris Johnson said: "This promises to be a fascinating weekend, with plenty of opportunities to find out more about British maritime history."

Romney Road SE10 9NF; 020 8858 4422 www.nmm.ac.uk/shonibare

Youth dance showcase

4 March

See some of London's best youth dance companies at Greenwich Dance's *Jam Free*. The showcase is crammed with high-energy performances, from hip-hop to contemporary, with Impact Dance's FFI, Cando2, Blueprint Bursary Winner Joseph Toonga, and performances by local dance groups. 7pm. £7 (concs £5).

The Borough Hall SE10 8RE; 020 8293 9741; www.greenwichdance.org.uk

Impact Dance's FF1

Viva la Dance

3 March

Viva la Dance! – part night out, part learning experience – explodes into action for one night only in Canary Wharf. The evening explores the array of dance styles originating from Latin America, set under the stars in the spectacular glass-covered East Wintergarden. The evening includes tutoring from professional dancers Doni Fierro and Liz Bayley with a live salsa band to keep things moving throughout, and a selection of themed food and drinks with a free glass of bubbly on arrival. 6.30pm. Tickets £8.50

East Wintergarden, 43 Bank Street, Canary Wharf. Book online at ticketweb.co.uk or call 0844 847 2268 (booking fee applies)

Roman Greenwich

Until 19 March

Travel back in time with *Culture Shock: Roman Greenwich*, the first exhibition curated entirely by young people at the Greenwich Heritage Centre. The exhibition was inspired by the Roman occupation of the area and a Roman fashion show and performance involving Greenwich Dance, Greenwich Theatre and others. The showcase combines fashion and set designs from the performance with objects from the museum's collection and the Roman Temple in Greenwich Park.

1 Artillery Place, Royal Arsenal SE18 4DX 020 8854 2452

Jane Ward exhibition

Until 26 Feb

This month catch new digital canvas works by Jane Ward at Bearspace. Ward's meticulously constructed works are composed of layer upon layer of digital imagery collaged together then broken down and collaged many times over to present an unseen landscape. The images are printed onto canvas from which the ink is dissolved and manipulated by hand. The subsequent confusion of scale and fragmentation of imagery, plus this partial erasure of the image, poses many questions regarding our perception of the world. Weds-Sat 10am-6pm.

152 Deptford High Street SE8 3PQ www.bearspace.co.uk

Jane Ward, Recollection 2, £2,400

In the frame

The difference between JPEG and RAW files can be confusing to a new digital camera owner. **Fergus Noone** breaks it down

When any digital camera takes a picture, it is probable that the data recorded will be saved as JPEG. The term JPEG actually refers to the method of image compression, in other words, the picture is recorded and processed to your memory card at a fraction of its original size. This allows space for many pictures without filling up too much memory and allows time for continuous shooting.

For those who have a DSLR, JPEG is not the only option to shoot in and RAW may be another alternative. However, RAW files take up a considerable amount of room and, without the right software, your computer may not recognise the file when you upload it.

There are advantages and disadvantages to both JPEG and RAW – ultimately it depends on what you are taking pictures of and how much information or detail you want your camera to record. For many, JPEG is perfectly suitable as it is a format widely adopted in the imaging industry. Yet, because the image is processed in the camera and then compressed, fine details like the definition of different tones in a sky could be filled in with unfaithful pixels of information because of the compression. This is where RAW benefits, as it is considered the equivalent of a photographic negative in that the basic part is there, but with the potential for many changes before it is considered final. So, when you shoot in RAW, it then has to be converted at a later stage before printing. If you are a beginner to the digital realm of photography, experiment with shooting in JPEG and RAW to see if you can determine a personal benefit to either or.

Few photographers will have the time to process every image in RAW and find that with everyday snapshots JPEG tends to suffice. As always, our One Day Photography Tuition Workshops can help you overcome such technical obstacles and help build your confidence.

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020 8858 3309; www.fergusnoone.com

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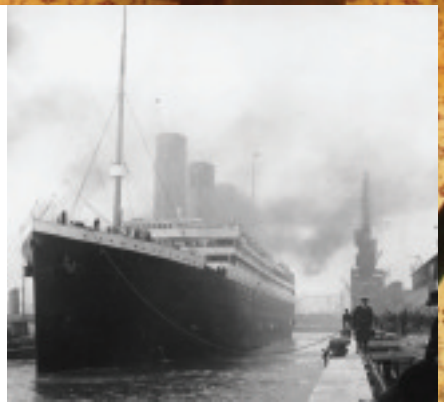


Lee Cheshire hops aboard the Titanic to discover previously unseen artefacts, the opulence of first class, and the moving tales of human tragedy

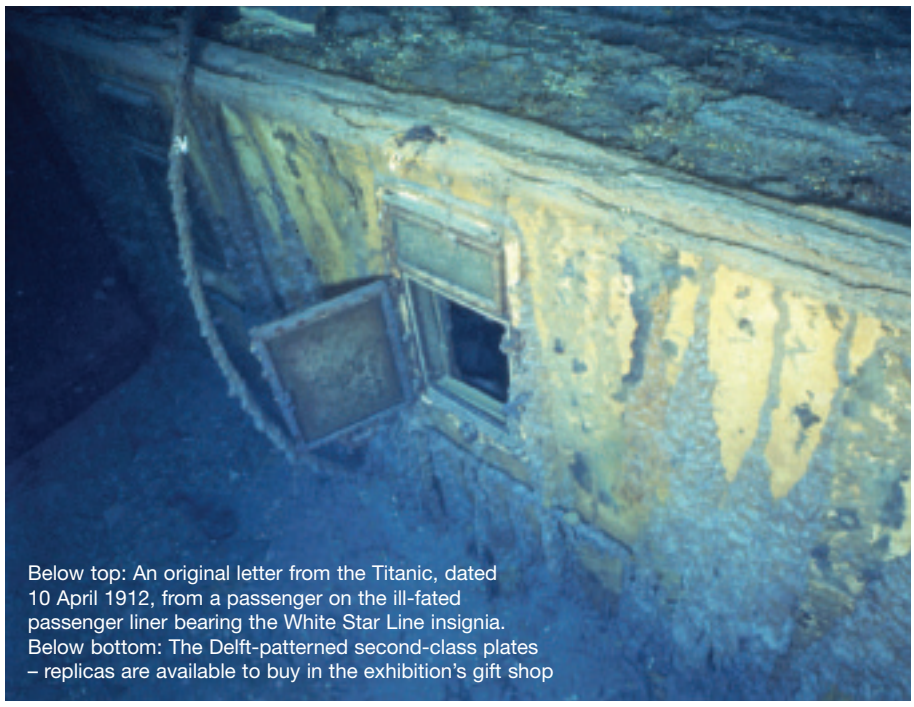
On entering *Titanic: The Artefact Exhibition* at the O2, you are given a replica boarding pass with the name of a real passenger. You keep the card to the end and check your passenger's name against the roll call of the dead. Morbid yes, but a way of personalising the catastrophe. Mine was Alfred Nourney, a 20-year-old German who had bought a first-class ticket with money inherited from his mother and was posing as 'Baron von Drachstedt'.

Chances are your passenger wouldn't have survived, especially if he was male. Only 706 got away safely since there weren't enough lifeboats for all 2,223 people onboard, and the women-and-children-first policy meant only 20% of the men lived.

My fake baron had the best possible chance, for he was travelling first class – the group that had the most survivors. He would have to have spent heavily. Second-class on the Titanic was the equivalent of first-class on other liners of the day, and even the third-class cabins weren't too bad. The beds had mattresses rather than the usual hay: recognition that this was the most profitable group aboard. But the first-class cabins were extraordinary and tickets cost more than £60,000 in today's money. The exhibition has a recreation of a first-class suite, complete with a marble bath that would have had running seawater (bathing in brine was considered therapeutic). Second-class passengers made do with washbasins, while third-classers had to share a handful of communal baths.

Class divisions shaped every part of ship life, even the design of the dinner plates. You can see (and buy replicas in the giftshop of) the blue and gold patterned bone china from first class, the respectable Delft-patterned second-class plates (in a design still sold

Clockwise from this picture: A recreation of a first-class cabin; a view of an officer's window from the ship's submerged remains; the Titanic setting off on her first and last voyage. All from Titanic: The Artefact Exhibition



Below top: An original letter from the Titanic, dated 10 April 1912, from a passenger on the ill-fated passenger liner bearing the White Star Line insignia. Below bottom: The Delft-patterned second-class plates – replicas are available to buy in the exhibition's gift shop

Delving deeper

Piqued your interest? The Mary Evans Picture Library in Blackheath, the UK's leading source for historical images, has a whole host of material related to the Titanic – from works of art to letters from loved ones and the newspaper headlines following the disaster. Professional researchers are welcome to visit the library (call 020 8318 0034 to make an appointment), and those seeking images for home or personal use can source reproduction digital prints via www.prints-online.com. **Find out more at www.maryevans.com**

today), and the plain third-class crockery, missing the name of the ship so the White Star Line could produce them in bulk.

Most of the artefacts in the show are real: they have been recovered from the ocean floor, having survived almost a century of being attacked by water, salts, acids, abrasive sediments, iron-eating microbes, bacteria and other organisms. Many are in such good shape it is hard to believe their eventful past: a bottle of champagne remains, full and corked, ready to be drunk; a pack of cards perhaps belonged to one of the card sharps who made a living aboard; a perfumer's sample bottles are intact, and apparently still smelling sweet.

There are bigger objects: the ship's bell, the ship's chronometer (always set to Greenwich time), one of the telegraphs that communicated the captain's commands to the engine rooms. There is even an iceberg (although I don't think it is the actual one). But inevitably it is the stories, not the artefacts, that have the biggest impact. We all know about the band who played as the ship went down, but what of the postal workers who died trying to save the mail bags? Or the English baby who became the last remaining survivor of the Titanic? Millvina Dean didn't know she had been onboard until the age of eight. Or Mr Nourney, who despite his aristocratic pretensions was most ungentlemanly: he was one of the first to a lifeboat and rowed away, occasionally discharging the pistol he had bought to "defend himself in the Wild West". He died in 1972, aged 80.

Titanic: The Artefacts Exhibition is at the O2 Bubble until 1 May. Adults £13/£15 (Greenwich Card holders get 20% off) See www.titaniclondon.co.uk

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The unstoppable Bruce Forsyth was honoured with Special Recognition

Top Gear trio Richard Hammond, James May and Jeremy Clarkson

High society

The National Television Awards bring red-carpet glamour to North Greenwich

Top TV

The National Television Awards brought high glamour to town on 26 January, as starlets like Cheryl Cole and Myleene Klass paraded the red carpet at the O2. But it was the veteran stars who triumphed with Bruce Forsyth and Sir David Jason carrying off the biggest prizes. Sir David, best known for roles in *A Touch of Frost* and Peckham-based *Only Fools and Horses*, took the trophy for Outstanding Drama Performance. *Strictly Come Dancing* host Forsyth, who was honoured with Special Recognition, joked: "This would be a good night to announce my retirement... but I'm not bloody going to."

The talented Myleene Klass

BBC Breakfast duo Bill Turnbull and Sian Williams

Outstanding Drama Performance winner David Jason

EastEnders won Best Serial Drama

Cheryl Cole celebrated X Factor winning Best Talent Show with the ubiquitous Simon Cowell

DAVID FISHER / REX FEATURES

Blackheath's Best

The beautiful Blackheath is home to a wide range of independent shops and services; here are a few of The Guide's favourites.

BELLA VISTA CUCINA ITALIANA

Choose Bella Vista Cucina Italiana for a memorable Italian experience. Head chef Alex Tyndall, formally of Michelin-star restaurant Chapter One, delivers dishes that range from simple to simply sumptuous, all with a distinctive Italian touch. The décor has been carefully selected to create a traditional atmosphere and there is also a private room available for up to 35 people.

3/5 Montpelier Vale SE3 OTA; 020 8318 1143
www.bellavistarestaurant.co.uk

CHAPTERS ALL DAY DINING

Chapters All Day Dining offers seriously good cooking right through the day in a relaxing and informal atmosphere. It is the ideal place to meet, eat and drink, with a classy, stylish and unpretentious feel to it. Chapters is the only restaurant in Blackheath or Greenwich to hold a much-prized Michelin Bib Gourmand, awarded to less than 25 restaurants in London.

43/45 Montpelier Vale SE3 0TJ; 020 8333 2666

BLACKHEATH DECORATING SERVICES

Blackheath Decorating Services specialises in all aspects of building, decorating, refurbishments, conversions and property maintenance. The company also offers a full design service and many of their previous and ongoing projects are featured in their online portfolio. Quality, honesty and reliability are key objectives, and the team is proud to say that 95% of their projects are from personal recommendations.

2 Merriman Road SE3 8RX; 020 8309 1891; 07961 387 643
info@bdss.co.uk

DODD LEWIS

Dodd Lewis is a friendly, client-focused family firm of solicitors, situated in the heart of Blackheath Village. Established since 1893, the company offers specialist services in commercial and residential conveyancing, commercial and civil litigation, wills and probate as well as employment law.

18 Tranquil Vale SE3 0AZ; 020 8852 1255
www.dodd-lewis.co.uk

WOOF AND PURR

Woof and Purr is the reliable, animal-focused pet-care team situated between Blackheath and Greenwich Park, providing daily support to help keep your pet healthy and happy. This includes dog walking and sitting, cat feeding and home visits for other animals, while an environmentally sensitive approach helps offset your pet's carbon pawprint. Call for a free home-based consultation to make sure the team is right for you and your pet.

Call the office on 020 8858 5576 or reach Carolyn direct on 07951 697 493 and Stephen on 07906 571 906
Email woofandpurrteam@aol.com

BEVERLEY MORRIS

Beverley Morris & Co provides a professional service by experienced lawyers with many years' local knowledge. The firm offers value for money and practical advice on all aspects of conveyancing, matrimonial matters and the preparation of wills, and lasting powers of attorney. Located in easily accessible ground-floor offices, the friendly team at Beverley Morris & Co is prepared to go that one step further!

35 Montpelier Vale SE3 0TJ
020 8852 4433
enquiries@beverleymorris.co.uk

SPARKLY SMILE

To celebrate the launch of the new Sparklysmile website, the team is running a spot-the-spelling-mistake competition. Spot the deliberate (or not deliberate) mistakes online and send them an email. In the middle of March, those with the most will go into the draw for a free whitening or hygiene appointment. Good luck!

19 Montpelier Vale SE3 0TA; 020 8852 0442
www.sparklysmile.co.uk

AISLING LOGAN

Aisling Logan is offering readers a reduced rate studio session! Book a session during February half term and pay just £35. With a relaxed approach and the informal surroundings of the studio, children feel at home and even the unwilling are converted. The results are beautiful, timeless, portraits that portray energy and personality.
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The Studio, Brigade House, Brigade Street SE3 0TW
020 8852 2777; www.aislinglogan.com

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33 Montpelier Vale SE3 0TJ; 020 8297 9511

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Shop front

Shannon Denny reports on the latest from the local shops

Bon voyage

If you're a regular shopper at Greenwich Craft Market, you may have been wondering where fair trade clothiers Sorazora have disappeared to. From January to March the company decamps to Nepal for production, research and to source all their materials and fabrics including wild Nepalese hemp and Himalayan nettle. Their long-sleeved dress (left) is priced from £47.50, and until they return to SE10 you can buy it online.

See www.sorazora.com

Carry me home

Embrace the utility trend this season with the Battersea Park bag from Radley. Sling it across your shoulder courtesy of the wide canvas strap or carry it in the crook of your arm by the leather grab handles. Vintage-inspired and crafted from the finest leather, it is so versatile you can use it for work or play. £249. Available in brown and tan.

Available from Hide All, 9 Greenwich Market SE10 9HZ; 020 8858 6104

Measure for measure

Tala was founded in 1899, and ever since has contributed to the crispy piecrusts, moist cakes and dainty biscuits of British home bakers. They've revived some of their historic range, including glass milk bottles, a retro cook's measure, flour sifter and ceramic pie birds. Meanwhile, a set of three cake tins, £25, let's you encase your creations in midcentury inspired design.

Lakeland, 22 Market Square BR1 1NA
020 8466 0372

Man oh man

For SS11, Austin Reed has looked to architecture, British preppies and Mad Men for inspiration. Blue is the colour of the season, from navy to peacock, cobalt to pastel. Crisp blue blazers with contrast buttons and exuberant pink linings offer a cheeky take on British collegiate styling, while in suiting the premium Austin Reed Signature range exudes impeccable detail and confident tailoring.

Cabot Place East, West India Docks
E14 4QT; 020 7513 0146

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My One Green Bottle is a collection of natural plant-based products for face and body, made and bottled at Boxhurst Farm in Kent by holistic therapist and aromatherapy expert Dinah Cox. The range includes moisturising waters, roll-on serums and scrubbing salts. The Himalayan Salt & Buttermilk Bath is £15.

www.myonegreenbottle.co.uk

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Colour blinding

What's the look for men this spring? **Laia Farran Graves** mixes it up

If you're unsure of which colours work well together, this is the style for you. As long as you colour-block it (otherwise known as mismatching), you'll be right on trend for this spring/summer season. So no more 'does brown match blue or black?' – just keep it to solid sections and Roberto is your uncle.

For a preppy – almost retro – look, match your tie to your shirt and break it up with some loud trousers. You can finish the look with some different coloured shoes (Tommy Hilfiger, Buckler) and, if you're feeling adventurous, accessorise with a shot of colour in your belt and socks. For a more subtle vibe, try purposely mixing neutral colours that you wouldn't normally, such as beige and chocolate brown or tan with green or black (Michael Kors, Louis Vuitton, D&G) and don't forget to mismatch your shoes and suit (Rag and Bone).

For the city boys out there, try wearing a different coloured suit jacket and trousers – or shorts if you're feeling continental. Add an oversized manbag to the ensemble and you'll be ready for action (Viktor and Rolf Louis Vuitton). Make it rock and roll with matching slim-fit dark trousers with a bright waistcoat and matching low cut T-shirt (See Paul Smith), and add a good old pair of boots.

And this trend even works if you like your sports (or lounging at home in your tracksuit): team up your favourite jogging pants with a different colour top (Y-3) and you'll be looking very chic for le gym – or le couch.

D&G Launch Touch Screen Watches

This season D&G launch a new range of touch screen watches, bringing together the latest technology with cutting edge fashion design. Sensors integrated in the case allow access to the watch functions such as date and time – in 32 countries – chronograph alarm and backlight, with a single tap of the finger. The silicone strap is available in the five vibrant colours to match the glass: white, black, blue, pink and orange.

High Contact watches are in store from March priced £165

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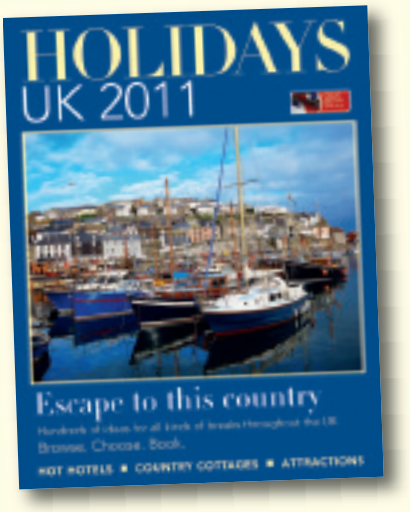

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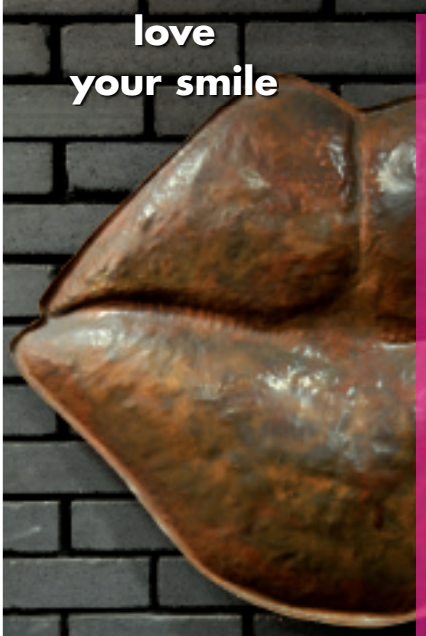

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Natural beauty

So Organic founder **Samantha Burlton** on how to update your look for spring

Step 1

Create the perfect base

Getting flawless-looking skin doesn't always mean piling on tonnes of heavy products. A tinted moisturiser to even out skin tone and give you a glow will create a natural fresh-faced look just right for spring.

Step 2

Enhance what you have

If you have beautiful almond-shaped eyes or perfectly shaped lips, work with that feature and choose products to accentuate it. Allow either your eyes or your lips to lead the look – if you go for both you're in danger of looking too heavily made up.

Step 3

Try something different

It's all too easy to get stuck in a make up rut, but seasons change, and so do we. As we age we need to update our make up to ensure it still flatters our skin tone and style – change one small thing and you'll feel like a new woman. A gorgeous shade of eye shadow or a fabulous new lip gloss will give you a huge confidence boost without breaking the bank.

Step 4

Nurture your nails

Taking a little extra care of your hands, by using a good hand cream and having the occasional manicure, will pay dividends. Well groomed hands and nails complete your look, and now the weather is warming up and the gloves are coming off, it's time to stop neglecting your hands! If you need any help in choosing products, or have any questions on concerns about any aspect of beauty and skin care, drop me an email at beauty@soorganic.com. I'd love to help.

Where to buy your make up locally

> **So Organic** stocks five brands of organic, natural and mineral make up: Dr Hauschka, Lavera, Green People (all pictured above), Suki and Nvey Eco. From £8.50. 22 Nelson Road SE10 9JB; 0800 169 2579; www.soorganic.com

> **Fresh** stocks natural make up by Aveda from £11. 43 Tranquil Vale SE3 0BU; 020 8318 2666; www.freshlifestyle.co.uk

> **The Body Shop** stocks Body Shop's own-brand naturally inspired make up from £6. Cabot Place East E14 4QS; 020 7719 1493; www.thebodyshop.co.uk

Beauty *extra*

Even more hints and tips for looking good and feeling great

Lovely locks

Cast off the shackles of hat hair; it is time to embrace the carefree styles of spring/summer. The stylists at The Curious Comb are looking to texture for the new season, so for beautiful beach waves, why not dabble in advanced perming? Wipe from your mind that image of the crunchy 90s perm, and instead watch in awe as specialists Carina and Emma set to work creating extra volume at the roots or a subtle wave.

111 Humber Road SE3 7LW; 020 8853 8282
www.thecuriouscomb.com

Fantastic feet

Feet get a raw deal in the winter, so they are going to need a fair bit of attention before being ousted for spring. Enter luxury health and beauty website lookfantastic.com, which recently launched lookfantastic/tv packed with videos and tips from beauty experts. Let foot expert Margaret Dabbs guide you through a pro-pedicure, and while you're there, order a bottle of her Intensive Treatment Foot Oil (£20) for immediate and long-lasting relief from dehydrated, cracked and broken skin and nails.

See www.lookfantastic.com/tv

The bee's knees

The London Marathon sweeps through the capital once more on 17 April. Those in training would do well to keep the number of Vanbrugh Physiotherapy close to hand. The sports injury clinic, celebrating its 21st birthday this year, has an experienced team of physios to keep you up and running through any aches and pains. Massage therapists will see to any tightness, and those inspired to take up running can call in for a gait assessment and advice on strengthening and stretches.

121 Trafalgar Road SE10 9TY; 020 8293 5484

Making a splash

Swimming is a skill for life, and one that can keep us fit and healthy. But a large proportion of adults either cannot swim or feel nervous in the water. Downham Health and Leisure Centre has just launched a new range of swimming lessons for adults at all levels, starting at £24 for eight weeks. Those taking up classes will also be able to swim for just £1 in between sessions for the duration of the course. Call to enquire about the new Aquafit classes, too.

7-9 Moorside Road BR1 5EP; 020 8461 9200

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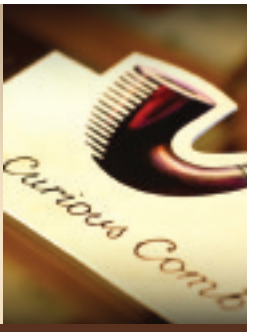
THE GUIDE *Weddings*

The rings, the dress, the venue...your essential guide to the perfect day



So you've booked the venue, the flowers have been chosen and the dress fits, but still undecided with what to do with your hair?

Here at The Curious Comb, our dedicated stylists can help create the ideal look for your wedding day. With a homely atmosphere and friendly staff, we aim to give you the perfect start to your special day, topped off with a glass of bubbly and treats for the wedding party!

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Sharp shooter

Forest Hill-based wedding photojournalist Ian Southworth of Peartree Pictures recently won a prestigious international award. The Wedding Photojournalist Association (WPJA) awarded Ian first place in the Ring Details category of the Third Quarter Photography Competition. Ian, who was awarded second place in the Third Quarter Dancing category in 2009, is ranked among the WPJA's top 100 wedding photojournalists in the world.

Call Ian on 07795 473 863 or see www.peartreepictures.co.uk

Something old something new

News from the area's brightest and best in wedding services

Paper weight

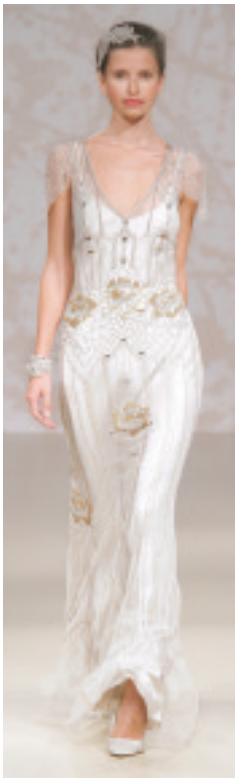
Deptford's Mandalay won Best Wedding Stationer in January's Wedding Ideas Awards, attended by over 200 leading names from the bridal industry. Formed in 2002 to create high-quality, professionally designed wedding stationery, Mandalay won the award for the second year running. In 2009 and 2007 the company was highly commended, taking the crown again in 2008.

www.mandalaywedding invitations.co.uk

Gorgeous gowns

Blackheath's Blackburn Bridal Couture, which caters for today's more discerning and fashion-forward brides, is to hold an exclusive Jenny Packham Designer Day on 26 February. Honoured as International Couture Bridal Designer of the Year 2007 and British Bridal Dress Designer of the Year 2008, Jenny Packham's luxury design house is world renowned. The day is expected to be a busy one, so call quickly for appointments (£20, redeemable on orders).

6 Tranquil Vale SE3 0BD
020 8297 1188
www.blackburnbridal.co.uk



3 *of the best*

Greenwich's top three historical wedding venues

1. The Tudor Barn The beautifully restored Tudor building shares the romance of some of history's most celebrated marriages, including Sir Thomas More's daughter, Margaret, to William Roper. The Tudor Barn's dedicated team will help you plan your perfect day, whatever the budget. Wedding party of up to 200.
Well Hall Pleasance, Well Hall Road SE9 6SZ; 0845 459 2351

2. Eltham Palace The childhood home of Henry VIII, Eltham Palace was chosen by society millionaires Stephen and Virginia Courtauld as the location for their art deco mansion in the 1930s. Scope out the venue and trusted suppliers at the bridal open day on 19 Feb (11am-4pm). Wedding party of up to 300.
Court Yard, Off Court Road SE9 5QE
020 8294 2577

3. The Old Royal Naval College Arrive by boat, take drinks and photographs in the ornate grounds and marry in the elegant setting of the Painted Hall or the intimacy of the Admiral's House. Every detail can be planned with the expert assistance of the dedicated events team. Wedding party of up to 450.
2 Cutty Sark Gardens SE10 9LW
020 8269 4747

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before

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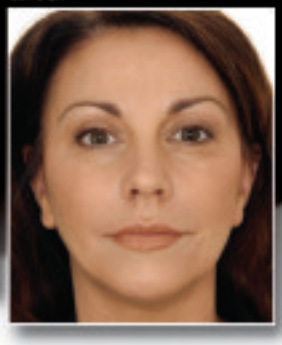

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Spoil me

The Guide rounds up the most extravagant in jewellery and gift ideas, this month with a matrimonial flavour

1

2

3

4

1. Ring me

Goldsmiths platinum 0.50ct diamond solitaire ring £2,799 (top) and platinum 12 stone, 0.50ct diamond set ring £1,299.
Canada Place E14 5AH; 020 7512 9779; www.goldsmiths.co.uk

2. Bejewelled

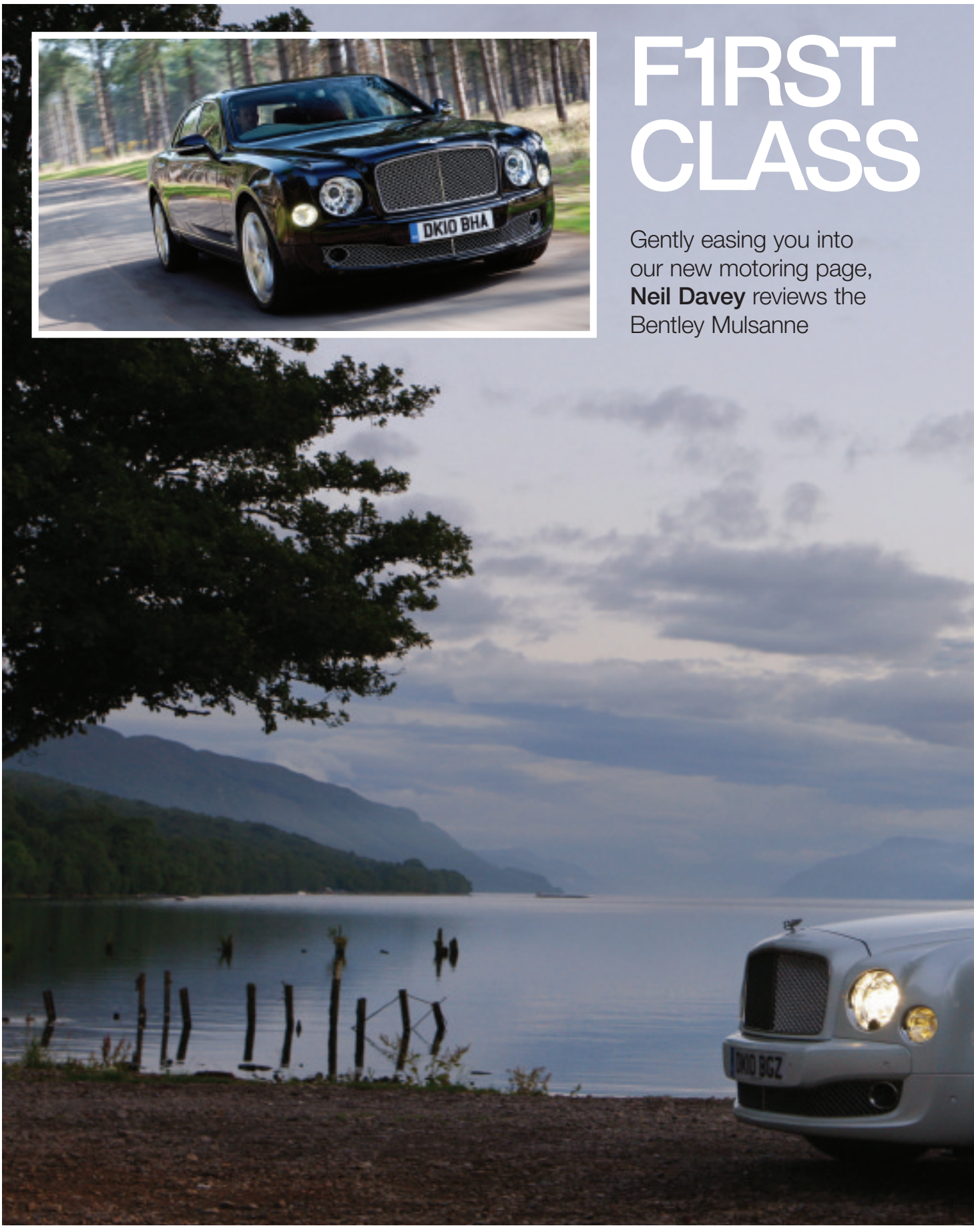
Swarovski with Clarins make-up pendants. Crystal Gloss for radiant lips £48 (top) , Crystal Touch in silver for luminosity £55.
Available from House of Fraser from 31 March; www.houseoffraser.co.uk

3. A gift for life

Aspinal of London Mon Chere Pave Heart Cluster Necklace £1,950 (above right), Monaco Diamond Cluster Pendant Necklace £1,395 (circled).
15 Cabot Place E14 4QT; 020 7719 0727; www.aspinaloflondon.com

4. Make it your own

For the most romantic of gifts, nothing but bespoke will do. Take your inspiration to Blacks of Blackheath and they will provide an estimate for the jewel of your dreams, even if nothing short of Kate Middleton's sapphire and diamond ring will do!
9 Tranquil Vale SE3 0BU; 020 8852 0181; www.blacksofblackheath.com



F1RST CLASS

Gently easing you into our new motoring page, **Neil Davey** reviews the Bentley Mulsanne

Let's address the obvious first. Yes, the Bentley Mulsanne IS expensive (c. £220,000) and rare (they only make 800 a year, and they've sold out until 2013), which makes this an extravagant use of a motoring column. However, if you were in the privileged position of being able to buy one, the only question you need ask is "why not?" Because when Bentley push the envelope, the result is something special.

In terms of looks, this is a car with undoubted presence. That's partly because of the size – think road-going barge – but mostly it's because of the clean lines and subtle curves. Even stationary, the Mulsanne appears poised and ready to leap. Remarkably, it does it without appearing ostentatious; it's a car to be appreciated by those in the know.

The size of the vehicle is certainly evident if you're sitting in the back, where you could be forgiven for thinking you're travelling business class in a very low flying jet. There's leg room to spare, hand-crafted wood and leather everywhere, and easily controlled electric everything.

The comfort is equally evident from the driver's seat, but that notion of size is soon forgotten: the car slips along with ease, punching so effortlessly to three digit speeds you may need the alarm – the oh so gentle alarm – that can be set to remind you that a hefty fine is potentially imminent. It's only when you're parking that you're aware of the size but, of course, the car is fitted with all the devices (sensors, reversing cameras, etc) to make that a breeze.

The numbers

Top speed: 184mph
0-60: 5.1 seconds
0-100: 11.6
Fuel consumption: 16.7mpg
Cost: £220,000

To be fair, the car needs to be big to fit in all the flourishes you would expect from Bentley's flagship, particularly the six-and-three-quarter litre V8 engine. This features two new systems – cam phasing and variable displacement – that control fuel-air intake and timing, and allows for four of the eight cylinders to idle when cruising.

What this means to the environment is reduced CO2 emissions and around a 15% improvement in fuel consumption compared to Bentley's previous V8. What this means to the driver is colossal amounts of torque within milliseconds.

The one possible "OTT" aspect is the stereo, a 2,000 watt slice of Naim's finest. Yes, that's not a misprint. It is capable of *two thousand* watts. Of course, being a Naim, even at the ear-bleeding upper reaches of the scale, the sound is crisp and clean. Perhaps more impressively, the glazing is so good you can barely hear a thing outside, even as the occupants of the car start to liquefy.

Will you ever get to drive one? Probably not. Should you buy one if you ever get the chance? Do I even need to answer that?

www.bentleymotors.com

The hills are alive

There's more to Switzerland than skiing, discovered **Vicky Smith** on a recent spa trip to Bad Ragaz

It's a tricky time of year for a quick getaway. England's dismal winters make leaving these chilly isles highly attractive, but if skiing is not your thing and seeking summer sun is a bit of a stretch (well, Eygpt is certainly off the menu for the moment), then The Grand Resort Bad Ragaz may well be the place.

The Grand Resort is in Heidiland, which conjures up some ideas of what the location might be like (or did for me). Take all those misty-eyed visions of Swiss scenery – snow-capped mountains, crystal lakes, verdant landscapes and the like – and transfer them to reality. Combine with state-of-the-art spa facilities, typically first-rate Swiss accommodation, and a treatment menu to make even the most experienced spa-goer take a second glance, and you have the ingredients for a perfect getaway.

Situated around an hour from Zurich (which itself is an hour and 40 minutes from London City Airport), the Grand Resort lies at the foot of the Alps, next to the incredibly pretty, picture-postcard town of Bad Ragaz. The site – which covers 500,00 sq metres of Alpine greenery – incorporates the Grand Hotel Hof Ragaz, and the grand Hotel and Spa Suites Quellenhof, both five-star resorts, and members of the 'Leading Hotels of the World'. The credentials speak for themselves.

At the heart of the site's philosophy and facilities is its source of Alpine thermal water (this part of the world has been heralded for its thermal springs since the 1200s). The stunning 'Tamina Therme' – a striking, newly-designed public baths where you can take a dip in naturally body-temperature water, in either indoor or outdoor pools – is the main event. Sitting in the thermal water, watching the sun rise over the steaming outdoor pools whilst inhaling the crisp Alpine air is a truly tranquil, magical experience. As a guest of the hotel, you can access these pools through a private entrance, but the resort's use of the thermal magic doesn't stop there.

FACT BOX

Nightly B&B rates at Grand Resort Bad Ragaz (www.resortragaz.com) start from €587 (£495) staying in a Spa Suite. Rates include breakfast, complimentary internet access, non-alcoholic drinks from the mini bar, private butler service, use of the To B. Wellbeing & Spa area and Tamina Therme, fresh fruit and Ragaz water each day and daily fitness and relaxation lessons as well as VAT. British Airways City Flyer offers flights six days per week from London City to Zurich from £113.80 return (or £55.30 one way) including taxes. To book visit www.ba.com or call British Airways on 0844 493 0787

We stayed in the newly-built Spa Suites (which opened in May 2009), which tap into the thermal water quite literally – the water that runs from the shower and taps is direct from the thermal source.

The Swiss have long had a reputation for efficiency and generally doing things 'well', and the suites do nothing to dispel this stereotype – aside from an enormous bed (pillow menu on hand, of course) from which you can recline and enjoy a panoramic view of the Alps outside, there is a bathroom that would make spa junkies weep – a personal steam shower, sauna, and whirlpool bath where you can watch your plasma screen TV, or enjoy the LED colour-changing lights and Swarovski crystal chandelier (which prompted an immediate rebrand as 'the disco bathroom' from me). There's something clever going on with the design, too, meaning that whatever you need is at hand before you realise that you even need it. And there's a mini bar with all sorts of health-giving juices and waters for good measure.

You hardly feel the need to de-stress after taking in the wonder of the room, however the resort's To B. Wellbeing & Spa is well worth donning your white fluffy robe and slippers for. It includes the Helenabad mineral water swimming pool, a sports pool and outdoor garden pool, as well as 'sauna world' – a sleek and modern selection of saunas (to state the obvious), a steam bath, ice cave and, excitingly, a Swarovski-embellished steam room (definitely one for the girls). Beware, however, the Swiss naked sauna policy. Being very British I clutched on to my towel for dear life, but no one else was remotely bothered. If you're not ready to bare all, there are areas you can happily prance around in your swimsuit, and not feel like the odd one out. Phew.

Treatments available span everything from facials – with top-notch brands such as La Prairie, Carita and Sisley – to specialist offerings including the 'Sequoia Grand Treatment', a 90-minute session incorporating reflexology and a 'pantha jama' massage. Crucially, the therapists are just as lovely as the treatments – I was addressed with a cheery "hello Wicky Schmidt" (Bad Ragaz is in the German-speaking part of the country) by most of the staff. It is the only time in my life that my name has sounded remotely interesting.

Beyond the resort boundaries, it's definitely worth taking a five-minute stroll into Bad Ragaz town, where you can revel in the landscape and embrace the spirit Heidi herself. And if you are craving some mountain-top action, hop on a gondola to the summit of Pizol mountain, where you can take in a very pretty and snowy view, or take to the slopes (dependent on time of year) should you so desire, before returning to the hotel for some fondue.

I defy you to return without a spring in your step.

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Domestic economies

Could your second home be paying for itself, or even making you a living?

Finally you've achieved your dream of buying a second home, and maybe for a few weeks each year you relax there with family and friends. But what about the rest of the year? Chances are it just lies empty, whileyou still have to cover the costs. If only therewas some way you could make it pay foritself, or even make a living from it.

With the rise in popularity of private holiday rentals with travellers, many owners are finding that renting out their property makes a substantial contribution towards running costs - or, in many cases, enables them to 'live the dream' of a career change or permanent move abroad.

And it's not just apartments and villas in the sun; demand for holiday rentals in the UK is just as strong, with London one of then most popular destinations. Holiday homes are now popular for all types of getaways worldwide.

Whether you want to rent out a few weeks to cover some costs, make your retirement home pay for itself, or you dream about a career change or living abroad, letting your property could be the answer. Christiane Morris bought a property in Malta as a holiday home and somewhere to retire to, but she started renting it this year as she needed the income to finance a second property. She already has 10 weeks booked. She explained: "We've been booked virtually all summer and have three enquiries in the pipeline, including one for a three-month long let over winter."

In Prague, Ilan Morris runs a successful holiday rentals business and is planning to set up his own property management company. He explains: "I bought two properties several years ago and was renting them to students, but this wasn't making any money and I was still relying on teaching to make a living. What I really wanted was to run a property business and I realised switching to holiday rentals was key. Renting the properties online via HomeAway Holiday Rentals opened the door for me. It means you don't have to use an agency that will take a big commission, and the cost of my yearly listing is covered with just one booking."

SEE HOW MUCH YOU COULD EARN:
To find out how much your holiday home could make, or how to get started, HomeAway Holiday Rentals' Owner Resources section contains all you need to know, including a beginner's guide to renting, and a wealth of articles, check-lists, sample contracts and forms.

Visit: www.HomeAway.co.uk/rent or call 020 8827 1971 today to find out more.

Top 5 tips for holiday rentals: getting started

1. Cover yourself: Make sure you're allowed to short-let your property, understand the tax implications and take out appropriate insurance.

2.Research your market: Find out which type of travellers visit your area and how similar accommodation in the area is priced.

3.Furnish your property for rentals: De-clutter and keep décor simple, and ensure you have all the facilities guests would expect at a self-catering home.

4.Take photos & prepare a description of your property and location: You'll need exterior shots and photos of each room, plus inspiring text highlighting features of the property and location.

5. Advertise: You need to promote your property to get bookings. Creating an online advert is easy and doesn't take long. Call or visit HomeAway.co.uk/rent to find out how.

Food for thought

From a quick bite to a sumptuous meal, keep your foodie endeavours local with one of these fabulous venues

THE GREEN CAFÉ

With a long history and a loyal following, the Green Café is very much an essential part of the Greenwich Food Scene. Located just opposite the Greenwich Picturehouse it is perfectly positioned for a delicious all-day breakfast before walking down to the market to search for bargains. With friendly staff and a great menu, it's a must for all local food enthusiasts.

285 Greenwich High Road
SE10 8NB

THE NORTH POLE

Established for 12 years, North Pole's highly acclaimed modern European-inspired dishes are loved by locals and regulars, and appeal to those seeking delicious food at affordable prices. The venue takes pride in its set menus, which vary from £19.95 midweek to £25 at the weekend and Sunday roasts with all the trimmings at only £16.95. Delectable bargains not to be missed!

131 Greenwich High Road SE10 8JA
020 8853 3020
www.northpolegreenwich.com

EVEREST INN

Everest Inn was awarded Best Nepalese Restaurant in the UK, 2009 and 2010, by the Nepalese Business Association. The restaurant offers up-market Nepalese and Indian cuisine, courtesy of award-winning chef Shanker Pandey. Diners can enjoy a variety of dishes from an extensive menu and food is prepared using the finest, freshest ingredients and spices, offering diners a taste to remember.

41 Montpelier Vale SE3 0TJ
020 8852 7872

HOLA PAELLA

Hola Paella, Greenwich Market's new Mediterranean deli, serves delicious, authentic paella from huge pans every week from Thursday to Sunday. Swing by and have a taste, or pop inside and enjoy a glass of wine or craft-brewed beer with something from the tapas and nibbles menu, inspired by Hola Paella's great range of Spanish and French products.

7 Greenwich Market SE10 9HZ
020 8858 0695

THE VILLAGE TAVERNA

This restaurant is perfect for al fresco dining in the Greek-style garden. On Monday to Thursday evenings, you can enjoy a meze special and a bottle of house wine for two for only £34.95, a rump steak with a glass of house wine or beer for £11.95, or seabass with a glass of house wine or beer for £13.95. A traditional four-course Sunday lunch is £11.95 and an a la carte menu is also available.

116/116a Lee Road SE3 9DE
020 8318 9462
www.thevillagetaverna.co.uk

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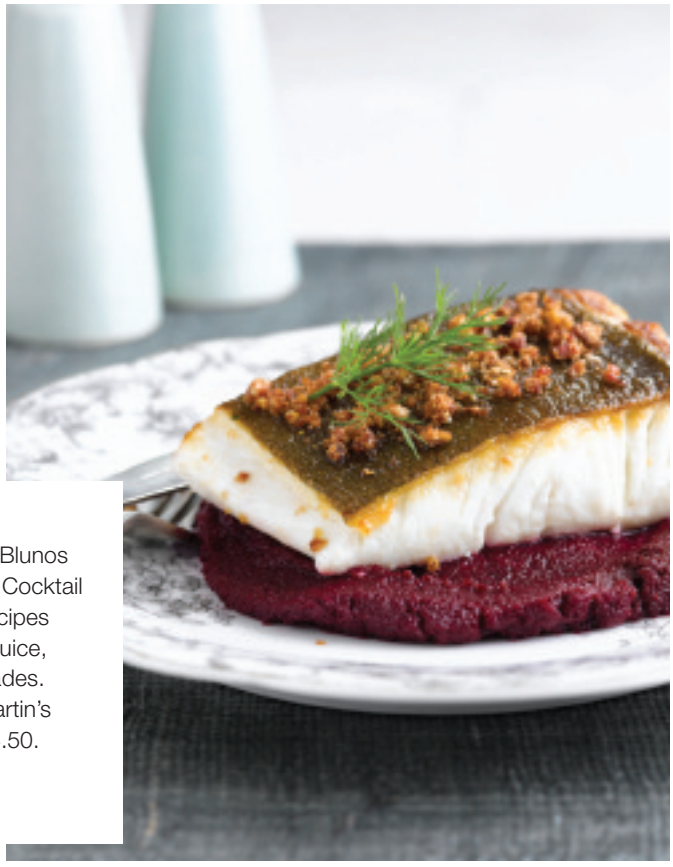
Gourmet news

Wine, paella, one big lunch and cooking with pomegranate juice. It's mad March in foodie land…



Pomegranate power

Celebrity chefs James Martin, Ed Baines, Gizzi Erskine and Martin Blunos are lending their talents to the POM Wonderful Gourmet Kitchen & Cocktail Lounge at the Vitality Show. The chefs will be creating intriguing recipes highlighting the versatility of POM Wonderful 100% Pomegranate Juice, which lends a sweet-tart taste profile to glazes, sauces and marinades. Try Blunos' halibut steaks on POM and beetroot puree (right) or Martin's pan-fried duck breast with pomegranate. 24-27 March. Tickets £14.50.
The Vitality Show, Earls Court, Warwick Road SW5 9TA
For tickets see www.thevitalityshow.co.uk

Let's do lunch

Lewisham Council is encouraging residents gearing up to take part in this year's Big Lunch to apply for a grant from the Big Lottery Fund. The national event takes place on 5 June and grants are available for those organising a lunch for over 50 people – check your eligibility at www.awardsforall.org.uk/england by March. The Big Lunch aims to get as many people as possible to sit down and share a meal with their neighbours – last year around 8,000 took place in the UK, with 57 in Lewisham.
Call the council on 020 8314 7321 for help with your event. www.thebiglunch.com

Northern lights

North London. It's not territory we're familiar with here at *The Guide*, but those intrepid explorers at Greenwich's Theatre of Wine have opened a second branch there. Like its southern sibling on Trafalgar Road, it is a cosy venue, centered on a long, handcrafted table, where themed tastings take place. The shelves are lined with wines from all over the world, and the shop is staffed by a knowledgeable team happy to leave you to browse or talk your ear off about unusual wines from Slovenia and small producers from Burgundy and Champagne. Go explore!
124 Junction Road N19 5LB
020 3490 2147; www.theatreofwine.com

Small plates, warm heart

New Mediterranean deli/cafe Hola Paella, which quietly opened before Christmas, has just celebrated its official launch. The charming interior is well on its way to channelling that rustic, continental vibe, with a huge wooden rack heaving with Spanish and southern French produce to inspire European flair in the kitchen. Enjoy mix-and-match antipasti such as black tapenade, houmous and sun-blush tomatoes, tapas like patatas bravas and calamari and, of course, freshly-cooked paella – all with a lovely glass of Rioja!
7 Greenwich Market SE10 9HZ
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www.insiderestaurant.co.uk
www.insideoutsideevents.co.uk
info@insiderestaurant.co.uk

Guy Awford

March on with a spiced parsnip strudel with garlic greens, purple sprouting broccoli and spring onion sauce

March is a tricky month for the cook. An explosion of yellow daffodils signals that spring is on its way, but the best fresh produce still smacks of winter. I suggest you continue cooking with winter staples, adding some hints of spring to freshen them up.

Of all the late season root vegetables, parsnips make by far the most flavoursome purée. Mashed with some butter and then grilled they are a delight to savour. In this month's recipe I am wrapping parsnip purée in filo pastry to make a delicious savoury strudel.

Making a strudel is fairly straightforward. You must use two sheets of filo pastry to stop it collapsing and brush the sides and top with butter to seal. Sprinkling the top with spices, salt and sesame seeds helps to enhance the flavour.

Ingredients (serves 2)

- 6 parsnips
- 8 filo sheets
- 500ml milk
- 4 cardamom pods
- 2 tsp sesame seeds
- 150g butter
- 40g flour
- Maldon salt
- Ground coriander
- 2 spring onions
- 50g baby spinach

Method

1. Peel and chop the parsnips into even pieces, removing the tough core at the base. Place in a large pot with 4 smashed cardamom pods, cover with milk and simmer until soft. Drain, reserving the milk. Remove the cardamom and mash. Season
2. Lay down a double layer of filo (vertically, facing away from you). Brush a 1-inch outside border with melted butter along the sides and top. Spread a thin layer of parsnip puree within the border leaving a 3-inch gap at the top. Fold in the sides and roll up. Repeat to make 4 strudels.
3. Place them on a tray lined with greaseproof paper. Brush the top with clarified butter and sprinkle lightly with sea salt, ground coriander and sesame seeds. Refrigerate.
4. Preheat oven to 200°C.
5. Melt 40g of butter in a saucepan and whisk in 40g of flour. Slowly add the parsnip milk until you have a smooth sauce. Liquidise with the spinach. Pass through a sieve and stir in 2 chopped spring onions.
6. Bake the strudel until golden (about 25 minutes) and serve with the sauce, greens tossed in garlic oil, and steamed purple sprouting broccoli.

Theatre of wine's Daniel Illsley selects the perfect accompanying tipple

March, the last month of winter, demands comfort wine and for this lightly spiced, sweet vegetable dish you will need a white with richness, ripeness and texture. Guillaume Chardonnay 2008 is a steal at £9 and comes from just east of Burgundy. It offers a good balance of peach, melon and toasty flavours delivered with a delicate zing of citrus. For a splash-out wine try Kooyong Beurrot (£18.90) from the trendy Mornington Peninsula in Australia. Made from pinot gris, it has complex flavours of orange blossom, vanilla and nutmeg that will perfectly partner Guy's dish.

Guillaume Chardonnay is available exclusively from Theatre of Wine
Beurrot from Great Western Wines

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Tudor Barn
Well Hall Pleasaunce, Well Hall Road SE9 6SZ; 0845 459 2351

From the ashes of a rowdy, down-market pub, the Tudor Barn at Well Hall in Eltham has elevated itself to a fine establishment. A plaque outside is dated 1568 and bears the initials of William Roper, who married Margaret, the daughter of Sir Thomas More. In the 30s the building withstood clumsy attempts by the council to modernise, and in more recent history its walls were tortured by stray darts, hurled by your less-than-discerning drinker.

Thankfully the Tudor Barn is now Grade II listed, and the family-run Tudor Barn Pleasaunce Ltd has worked tirelessly to get the place back in shape. In late summer 2009, the venue opened as a cafe, wedding venue and brasserie. This month, I decided it was about time *The Guide* checked it out.

Head chef Leigh Bell has settled on a compact menu – one that could benefit from the addition of a couple of extra dishes, but really I would have been happy with any of the options available. (Well, with the exception of the Thai green curry – too easy.) We amused ourselves grazing on the most fabulous tomato and basil bread, doused with a healthy drizzle of olive oil, served with sun-blushed tomatoes, olives and mozzarella. And then we moved on to the starters proper – a top-notch black pudding and pancetta with quail egg salad, and salmon roulade filled with dill-cream cheese and lemon dressing.

For the mains we sampled a faultless pan-seared, crispy-skinned fillet of sea bream stacked on a bed of green beans over chive and bacon potato cake, and an oven-roasted duck breast on a roasted sweet potato-parma ham and red current jus. The latter would have benefitted from some greens on the plate, but otherwise they were two well-balanced and perfectly executed dishes. We accompanied them with a light Picpoul de Penet (for moi) and a fine Belgian beer, Visor (for him).

For dessert, the cheesecake of the day (vanilla) with fresh cream and a crème brulee with ginger shortbread. Certainly worth a visit.

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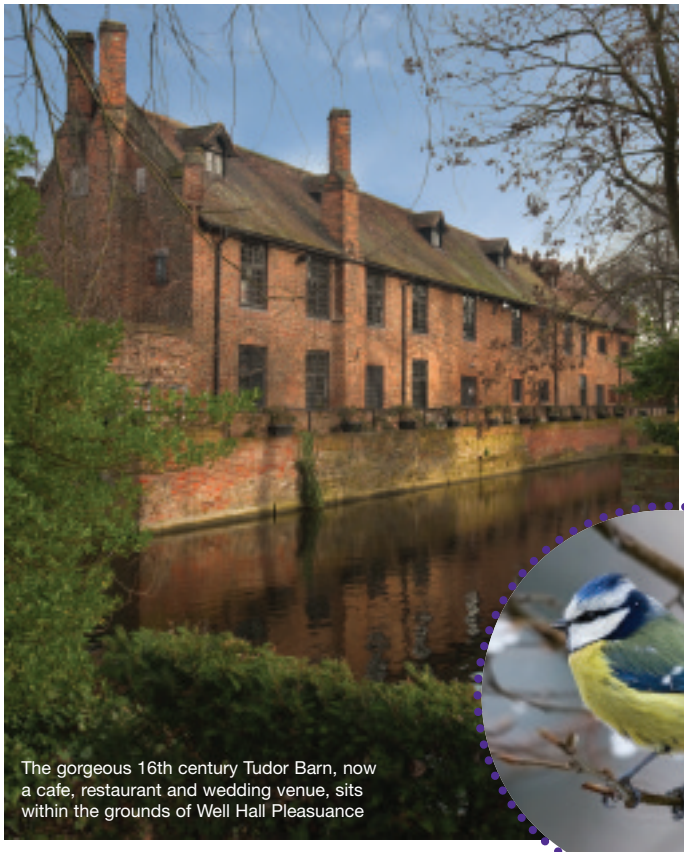
John Webb, secretary of the Friends of Well Hall Pleasaunce, on the local birdlife



WWW.COLINCRISFORD.CO.UK

The gorgeous 16th century Tudor Barn, now a cafe, restaurant and wedding venue, sits within the grounds of Well Hall Pleasaunce

An oasis of calm among the bustle of south east London, Eltham's Well Hall Pleasaunce plays host to a range of birdlife. The formal gardens, mature trees, ponds, shrubs and moat provide a variety of habitats, food sources and nesting places for our commonest bird species, and some not so common.

Casual visitors on a stroll and with a keen eye might quickly tick off 20 names from their bird list, even without the visual aid of binoculars or a telescope. Darting into the hedges and shrubbery, the tiny wren scuttles quickly from view when approached. Also, the white tail feathers and red bill of a moorhen are often seen shyly disappearing from view.

Scampering in and out of the eclectic mixture of specimen trees are four varieties of tit. Listen for the wheezing chatter of blue tits (pictured below left), the seesaw call of the great tit, the high-pitched twittering of the long-tailed tit and mates; spotting the slighter and greyer hues of the coal tit is a little harder.

Often on a garden spade-level perch or atop a low tree, the clatter of a robin's call (pictured above) can be heard, looking cute but fiercely defending its territory from a rival. Bobbing across the pleasant back lawn, fringed by 500 new native tree saplings and an emerging wildflower meadow, blackbirds chase their mates into the hedgerows. Among the flocks of iridescent pigeons, watch out for a collared dove feeding on seeds, the black flash across the neck standing out from a drab grey plumage.

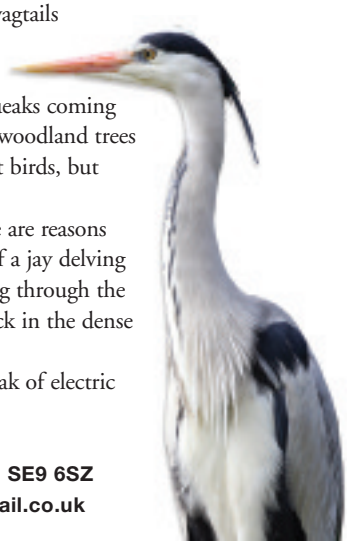
Far from drab or noiseless are the speed cops of the avian world. The arrow-like flight of the parakeet, coming to gobble the fruits and berries of the flowering cherries and crabs, and the ancient pears, in the historic 16th century walled garden. Their day-glow green feathers capped with a hooked red beak, they're destructive of the nest boxes placed among the boughs of the oaks, ashes and cedars. They also sustain damage by woodpeckers, whose undulating flight and red markings can sometimes be seen.

Come down early morning and approach the moat slowly. Eyeing the carp in the moat is often a heron (below), staring intently into the water, ready to unfold its giant wings to head for quieter shores.

Skipping and bobbing across the bowling green, pied and grey wagtails are frequent visitors, hoovering up insects en route. The squabbling squeaks coming from high up among the mature woodland trees are from starlings, one of our commonest birds, but declining in numbers.

For the connoisseur birdwatcher, there are reasons to return, perhaps to catch the glimpse of a jay delving into an evergreen tree; a goldcrest dancing through the twigs in the woodland trail and a dunnock in the dense hedge behind the Tudor Barn.

My best sighting? Just once – that streak of electric blue across the moat. A kingfisher! ●



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For further information call Cathy on 07951 44 55 70

or see www.rucksackmusic.co.uk

Flight of fancy

These pretty mobiles – hand-made from felt, sequins and beads by south London-based designer Felicity Meerloo – are likely to remain in place long after baby has grown up! Choose from tropical birds or a seaside theme and feast your eyes on bright pink love birds and colourful hummingbirds or lilac angel fish and hot pink clams. Bespoke designs also available.

Contact Felicity at f.meerloo@gmail.com

Young talent

Second Wave Youth Arts, which exists to develop youth-centred theatre and the arts, offers regular programmes of workshops, training, productions and employment opportunities for ages 13-25. For those looking to get ahead, the Youth Leadership course will help youngsters develop practical leadership skills and support other young people (Tuesdays 7-9pm). Those seeking more creative pursuits could try Devising and Acting, where they will work in a company to develop a play (Thursdays 7-9pm).

1st Floor, The Mission, 1 Creek Road SE8 3BT; 020 8694 2444

SCHOOL NEWS

Schoolchildren in Charlton and Kidbrooke have been challenged to grow flowering plants for the Giant Pavilion at this year's Chelsea Flower Show. The educational stand will display a host of flowering plants grown by pupils from a cluster of nine schools around Charlton Manor Primary School. Tim Baker, Head of Charlton Manor, says: "This is a wonderful opportunity for the pupils of local schools to gain some hands-on experience of gardening in the real world." The show runs 24-28 May.

The Eltham College Fencing team is on a winning streak. The school hosted the U16 and U18 Kent Three Weapon Championships on 16 January, where Elliott Grover took silver in the U18 Epee and Adam Aspden narrowly missed out on gold in the U16 Foil and won bronze in the U16 Sabre. The team collected another nine trophies at the Surrey Youth Championships a week later.

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Promotional Feature

It's a girls' world

Blackheath High School – dedicated to girls and developing the whole person

There is much evidence that girls perform better and achieve more widely in single-sex schools, and this is reflected in the disproportionate share of top league-table positions taken up by girls' schools. Schools such as Blackheath High School (a GDST school), are not only dedicated to excellence in education, but they are also dedicated to girls.

Rated 'outstanding' in the last ISI and Ofsted inspections, academic success is at the heart of what the school offers, but good exam results are only part of the package. Academic studies, and educational experience, tend to show that girls have a range of learning styles and preferences, as well as needs, which are best addressed on their own terms. As Kevin Standard, Director of Innovation and Learning at the Girls Day School Trust explains, "Research has shown that merely separating girls from boys has little impact in itself – beneficial results flow only if this goes in lock-step with a self-conscious and sustained attention to girls' learning preferences, needs and styles; through attention to, among other things, curriculum opportunities and expectations, teaching strategies, and physical environment – in short, the whole-school culture."

We are committed to this approach. The school's happy, caring environment and impressive facilities and range of extra-curricular activities, help to develop well-rounded personalities and the skills and understanding that girls need to be happy and successful in their adult lives.

Making every opportunity available to girls, as a matter of course, and a refusal to allow girls to typecast themselves according to others' perceptions is reflected in the wide-ranging subject

choices on offer.

At BHS, mathematics, the sciences and languages are among the most popular choices at A level. The key to success for girls is confidence, and the confidence developed through taking on challenges spills over into all areas of their life, including the academic. Right from the start of their time at BHS, girls are encouraged to participate in activities that challenge them physically, emotionally and socially, such as sport, performing arts, debating, outward-bound courses and the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. Even the play equipment in the vast, green Junior School outside play area is designed to encourage adventure and controlled risk.

Strong communication skills are encouraged through activities such as drama, debating, event management and public speaking, plus an emphasis on modern languages. Pupils study French throughout the Junior School and, at Senior level, study two languages from French, Spanish, German and Mandarin plus Latin.

Blackheath High School aims to ensure that each girl achieves the very best she can through a holistic approach to learning. In recognition that the teenage years can be a stressful time for girls, outstanding pastoral care including a school counsellor and nurse and an effective peer mentor group is provided. This is supported by a learning environment that includes a daily programme of 'wellbeing' which incorporates activities such as relaxing visualisation video clips, a philosophical thought for the day and tai chi. The girls typically become resilient, confident and well-rounded young women with a love of learning; who go out into the world and make a difference.

Blackheath High School is holding open mornings on Tuesday 8 March and Thursday 10 March. For further information, contact the Admissions Secretary, Mrs Nichols, on 020 8853 2929 or info@bla.gdst.net. See www.blackheathhighschool.gdst.net

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In good voice

Blackheath Prep School were the proud winners of the Barnardo's Annual Choir competition at the Barbican recently. Choirs from all over the country had entered the competition and the school's Cantabile Choir were among 12 finalists. The quality of the other choirs was outstanding and the competition fierce, so this triumph is yet another accolade that follows a string of successes.

Sound bites

There's a distinctly musical flavour to your education round-up this month

Music to your ears

Man Yuet Fung, a 12-year-old Second Year pupil at Caterham School, has been awarded a Trinity Guildhall Diploma for his performance with the violin. The Diploma standard of performance is equivalent to the performance component of the first year in a full-time undergraduate course at a conservatoire or other higher education establishment. "This is an amazing achievement for someone so young," says a delighted Julian Thomas, Headteacher at Caterham School. "He joins an impressive list of pupils who have developed their music skills whilst at Caterham and received offers from the Royal Academy of Music or Cambridge."

Time to believe

Glee mania will sweep through Stagecoach Dulwich this Easter as the school performs its own Glee-style show – *Don't Stop Believing!* The workshop from 18-21 April will culminate in a high energy show packed full of well known songs that have the Glee factor. Courses are available for four to seven-year-olds and eight to 16-year-olds and you do not have to be a current Stagecoach student. "I have employed professional musical directors and choreographers to work with students and the aim is to mount a full costumed performance in four days," comments Principal Jonny Clines. "It's ambitious, but I know it is also going to be great fun and a fantastic experience."

To book a place or for further information call 0845 055 6368

An open letter

I talk to lots of parents and prospective parents about what makes a good school. Of course they want their children to succeed academically, but they always tell me that they also place a huge emphasis on the wider aspects of school life. The atmosphere, the ethos, how polite the children are, and the enthusiasm and commitment shown by all members of the school community.

All of these are essential parts of what makes an excellent school, and it is in an excellent school that your daughter will achieve her potential. Here at Bromley High School, those 'extras' are an essential part of the key educational support and environment that we provide. By providing excellent pastoral care, challenging lessons for girls of a wide range of abilities, and by having an outstanding range of extracurricular opportunities, we constantly outperform local schools by every measure.

If you were to visit us, though, you would not find an academic hothouse. Far from it, you would find happy, communicative, confident and well rounded girls. Girls whose personal development is nurtured and encouraged by our excellent team of staff. Openness is one of the key features of our school and to this end we offer taster days so that you can come along and see for yourselves. Assessments for Year 3 for September 2011 will be held on 24-25 March. A Senior School Open Afternoon will take place on 16 May 2011 and regular tours run in the Junior School. Please email admissions@bro.gdst.net to book your place. *Louise Simpson, Headteacher, Bromley High School*

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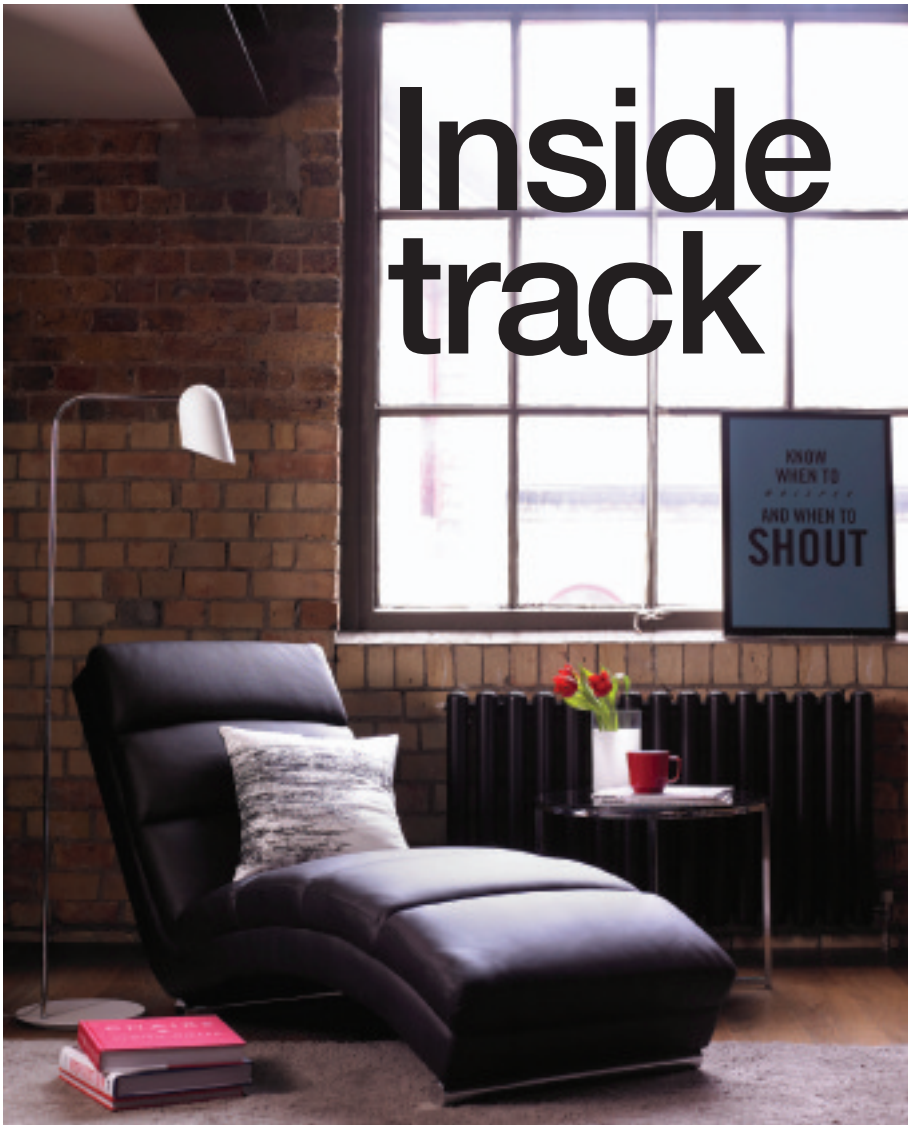
Inside track



Three new looks for stylish living – Manhattan loft, the best of British and functional home offices

The high life

One could probably get away with comparing Canary Wharf to Manhattan, so E14 residents take note: this spring House of Fraser launches Kenneth Cole New York Home. The monochrome colour palette with pops of rich colour encapsulates a modern interior style synonymous with loft living. Clean architectural lines and simple detailing are manifested in smart furniture, dinnerware, bedlinen and home accessories. But those living over on the 'mainland' in Greenwich and Lewisham need not despair, for the black leather curved Bronx chaise (£399) is surely a worthy addition to any bedroom or lounge.

Bluewater, Greenhithe DA9 9ST
0844 800 3708; www.houseoffraser.co.uk

Fine furnishings

This year sees the 150th anniversary of Morris & Co, world renowned for its fine, handmade fabrics, wallpapers and furnishings. To mark the milestone, the design team has revisted the archives to launch four new collections: Archive Prints, Wallpapers, Weaves and Embroideries. SE10's Pickwick Papers has quite a history with the company, having petitioned to get popular wallpaper print, Fruit, reintroduced in the 80s. Call in and flick through their extensive collection of Morris & Co look books.

6 Nelson Road SE10 9JB; 020 8858 1205
www.pickwickpapers.co.uk

Could, wood, should

How are the New Year's resolutions coming along? Not great? Perhaps you simply haven't kitted yourself out with the correct tools. If getting organised, studying or even setting up your own business are among your 2011 plans, then consult Greenwich Woodworks on creating the perfect study. This local firm of cabinetmakers - skilled in design, joinery and installation - create bespoke furnishings in a variety of styles. The showroom office (left) demonstrates various mechanisms, storage solutions and cable-management systems to hide away office clutter.

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Style counsel

Interiors guru, **Sonia Murton** hunts out bespoke homewares for Mother's Day...

Mum's the word early next month with Mother's Day falling on 3 April, so ensure you go all out with a thoughtful gift to surprise your mother. Photographs are a magnificent gift, especially in this digital era where many people, like me, are useless when it comes to printing out our memories, which really is quite sad. **Marks and Spencer has a beautiful scalloped picture frame** (£19.50) – just add a picture to make a super-stylish gift.

If you are looking for something really special, why not arrange a day's **professional photo shoot**? Whether you want to keep it intimate or bring the whole entourage, there are some incredible photographers out there who can create some wondrous portraits. That way, you can combine an unforgettable experience with a guaranteed exhibition piece to take pride of place in your mother's home. **Local photographer Helen Bartlett** will accommodate your preferred backdrop, from your local park to your home. Prices start from £295 for a midweek family shoot, rising to £395 at the weekend (plus print costs). Book before Sunday 2 April and *The Guide* readers can claim 10% off a portrait session! (A gift token will be sent out to present to your mum.)

In keeping with the photograph theme, **55maxbespoke turns your photos into works of art**. Set time aside to gather old photographs, digital images and any other significant milestones – from concert ticket stubs to newspaper cuttings – and 55maxbespoke will bring them together, freehand, into a photomontage. Prices start at £125 and you can include up to 20 images set in a deep-bevelled mount frame, and you will get a proof before printing.

Expanding on this, decoupage is another memory-evoking option. At Belle Interiors we love bespoke furniture, so for something a little more grandiose, our **Louis-style chest of drawers, bedecked with your own personal memories**, would make a great heirloom piece. A selection of pictures on good quality paper are all that is required for a piece that would not look out of place in any room in the house. A small chest of drawers starts from £395.

So, all you sons and daughters out there, make sure you spoil mum rotten!

Sonia Murton is founder of Belle Interiors, 17 Royal Parade BR7 6NR 020 8467 0290; www.belleinteriors.co.uk

From top to bottom:
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Green space

Local garden designer and horticulturalist **Nigel Jones** goes pagan over the spring equinox

March flowering plants, clockwise from above: euphorbia amygdaloides var. robbiae; iris unguicularis; helleborus x hybridus

My old lecturer in horticulture does a fire dance in his garden when he feels that spring has arrived. It is his way of celebrating the end of winter and the promise of warmer days to come. However, those in Shooters Hill wanting to catch him in the act may be disappointed, as his celebration is on a different day each year. You see, for him the arrival of spring isn't dictated by the calendar – whether it is buds breaking in the garden, a feeling in the air, or the sun warming the back of his neck as he works the soil; he just knows.

For those requiring astronomical certainty, March brings the Vernal (Spring) Equinox, which this year falls on 20 March in the UK, marking the date when day and night are equal. From then until the Summer Solstice, the days, thankfully, get longer.

The Vernal Equinox is recognised by a number of cultures: the Druids commemorate it as Alban Eilir (The Light of the Earth) and see it as a time of balance when they celebrate the return of life to the earth; Persians celebrate Nowruz (Farsi for new year) with feasts and outdoor gatherings; and the Kurds jump over fires. In Poland, spring is celebrated by setting alight an effigy of Marzanna (a goddess associated with winter) before she is drowned to mark the end of winter.

I am planning my own celebration this year. As it is a Sunday, I'll be on my allotment in Lee. I will sow my parsnips, take the lid off my flask and raise a cup of tea to what promises to be another successful year in the life of Medlar & Cob.

Nigel Jones is founder of Medlar & Cob Landscapes and Garden Design, Second Floor Studios & Arts, Harrington Way SE18 5RN; 020 8318 3081

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Advertisement Design and Support provided by Archant Production Services

Archant Life

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Print & Distribution

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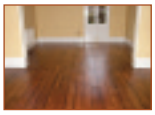

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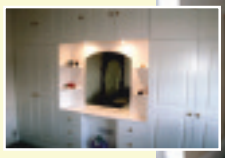

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Chislehurst 020 8285 9900
Email sch@kfh.co.uk

Cedars Close, Lewisham, SE13 £385,000

A two bedroom apartment situated in a Grade II listed gated development close to Blackheath Village and transport links. The property comprises open plan living room, luxury bathroom, stunning communal gardens, private parking and many period features. Leasehold.

Blackheath 020 8852 9451
Email sbl@kfh.co.uk

Guibal Road, Lee, SE12 £875,000

A beautifully presented Edwardian house located on a double plot. The property comprises four double bedrooms, two reception rooms, kitchen/diner, study, two bathrooms, and a single and double garage. Located close to Lee and Grove Park train stations. Freehold.

Lee 020 8857 9494
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Woodclyffe Drive, Chislehurst, BR7
Prices from £1,450,000

An award winning gated development of fourteen beautifully designed five bedroom townhouses situated close to Chislehurst station. The houses are built in a classic Georgian style with beautiful brick facades. Each home incorporates features including handmade mahogany kitchens, built in double oven, Lutron lighting, oak and natural stone flooring and underground parking with direct access to the properties. Freehold.

Land and New Homes 020 8222 7200
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Widmore Road, Bromley, BR1
Prices from £199,950

A stunning conversion of a Regency villa comprising eight apartments near Bromley town centre. These stunning one and two bedroom apartments come with a very high specification, which includes under floor heating throughout and benefit from off street parking and large communal grounds. Leasehold.

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Duke Humphrey Road, Blackheath, SE3
£1,600 pcm

A spacious two double bedroom second floor flat in a prestigious building located in the heart of Blackheath Village overlooking the Heath. The property comprises spacious reception room, separate fully fitted kitchen, modern bathroom, communal garden and integral garage. Available March. Unfurnished.

Blackheath 020 8297 0181
Email lbl@kfh.co.uk

Chaundrye Close, Eltham, SE9
£3,500 pcm

Stunning five bedroom detached family home in a sought after location adjacent to Eltham Palace. The property comprises three reception rooms, three bathrooms, modern fitted kitchen, beautiful garden and triple garage. The property is located close to transport and local amenities. Unfurnished.

Blackheath 020 8297 0181
Email lbl@kfh.co.uk

Quietly imposing

This fabulous property is situated off one of the area's most sought-after roads and is a largely extended double-fronted 1930s detached family home that has been the subject of a thorough and tasteful modernisation. The well-proportioned accommodation offers four bedrooms and three bathrooms over two floors and enjoys the added benefit of an impressive two-tiered garden. At the front there is ample hard-standing parking for two to three cars.

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Chislehurst BR7 **£1,750,000 F/H**
This substantial detached property offers over 5,500 sqft of accommodation arranged over four floors. Set behind electronically controlled oak gates and located just 1 mile from Chislehurst train station and 150 yards from Royal Parade.
Chislehurst - 020 8295 4900

Chislehurst BR7 **£1,500,000 F/H**
Designed and constructed to a high standard and benefiting from many hi-tech features this four bedroom detached house occupies a plot of around 1/2 acre. The property is located in this much sought after cul de sac off Church lane.
Chislehurst - 020 8295 4900

Bromley BR1 **£1,500,000 F/H**
Five bedroom, three bathroom, contemporary detached property in Sundridge Park. Offering 3,581sqft of the highest quality accommodation. Externally there is a mainly lawned private rear garden of 110ft (approx), detached garage and gated off street parking.
Bromley - 020 8315 5544

Beckenham BR3 **£975,000 F/H**
Situated on one of Park Langley's most sought after roads is this detached 1950's house. Sitting on a generous plot (approaching half an acre) with its garden measuring 180ft by 90ft. Comprising 25ft reception, dining room, kitchen/breakfast room, study, utility and two bathrooms.
Beckenham - 020 8663 4433

Beckenham BR3 **£2,750 PCM**
Imposing 1930's detached family home comprising 21ft double aspect lounge, 14ft dining room with original feature fireplace, kitchen/diner, downstairs wc, master bedroom with balcony overlooking the gardens, four further double bedrooms, an immaculate family bathroom and detached garage.
Beckenham - 020 8663 4433

Chislehurst BR7 **£2,500 PCM**
This four bedroom detached house was built in 1936 by Frederick Love. Benefits from three reception rooms and two bathrooms. The rear garden extends to approximately 180' and by 120' at its widest point. Located off Camden Park Road being just 1/2 mile from Chislehurst station.
Chislehurst - 020 8295 4900

Bromley TN16 **£1,400 PCM**
Offered in very good condition and comprises three double bedrooms (en-suite to the master bedroom) plus family bathroom, spacious kitchen/diner and a large living room. The house is offered fully furnished and also with the use of the garage.
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Sinclair Hammelton

Head of Sales: Russell Sinclair

Company profile : An independent agent trading in Bromley, offering residential sales, lettings and financial services. The experienced and knowledgeable team provides effective marketing and advice.

Typical property: From apartments to three and four-bedroom family homes and executive homes.

Tips to seller: Choose an experienced and knowledgable agent who knows the market and get the kerb appeal right – first impressions count! A well presented home with minimal clutter is more appealing.

Tips to buyer: Work out your budget – get independent mortgage advice before viewing. Look at catchment areas for local schools and work with the local professionals and solicitors – they know the market.

Market comment: I expect the first half of 2011 to show good activity levels and prime properties in the right locations will achieve expectations. As for the second half of the year, with talk of interest rate rises, I expect the market to cool, while the lettings market continues to boom due to a lack of stock.

23 High Street, Bromley BR1 1LG; 020 8464 5566
www.sinclairhammelton.co.uk

Capital Estate Agents

Head of sales and lettings: Rob Tancred

Company profile: Straight talking, no nonsense estate agents. Three local offices and staff who are active and polite!

Typical property: A good range of property for sale or to let, from a studio flat to a million-pound house.

Tips to seller: At Capital we take lots of photos. People normally make their mind up before they view a property from the details they can see online, so good photos are paramount.

Tips to buyer: Try to make your research as good as the agent's! Use all the internet search engines for a good idea of sold prices and bear in mind the three magic words: Location. Location, Location!

Market comment: It's actually not too bad out there, the market is ticking over nicely. As long as interest rates don't go past 3% this year then the market will remain buoyant but stable. Rentals are fantastic and buy to let is working rather well.

Whats different at Capital? We talk to you like human beings, we provide great feedback and we get the job done.

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Sinclair Hammelton

BROMLEY SOUTH **£865,000**

A handsome four bedroom double fronted detached Edwardian family which has been lovingly restored to the Edwardian grandeur with all the modern convenience the modern lifestyle you would come to expect of this stunning home.

Bromley 020 8464 5566

BICKLEY **£850,000**

Located in one of Bickley's most prestigious roads in this extremely well proportioned five bedroom, three bathroom detached family home within easy reach of Bickley & Elmstead Woods Stations and benefits from a south West facing rear garden.

Bromley 020 8464 5566

BICKLEY **£699,950**

A modern detached five bedroom family home offering substantial accommodation situated within a private gated close comprising of three houses that were built approximately three years ago and also benefits from the remainder of the 10 year NHBC warranty.

Bromley 020 8464 5566

BROMLEY **£665,000**

A double fronted detached family home backing onto woodland in this quiet and sought after tree lined road. The property has been much improved by the current owners and includes five bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, landscaped rear garden, and within 0.5 of a mile from Shortlands station.

Bromley 020 8464 5566

BROMLEY **£589,500**

Built by Berkeley Homes approximately 12 years ago & beautifully updated since is this four bedroom, two bathroom family home. The property provides generous and versatile accommodation, notable features include a generous rear garden, garage and own driveway.

Bromley 020 8464 5566

BROMLEY **£499,995**

A highly attractive four bedroom townhouse in a gated development located approximately 0.66 of a mile from Bromley South station providing a regular service to London Victoria and the High Street with its abundance of shops and many fine restaurants.

Bromley 020 8464 5566

Bromley **Beckenham** **Orpington**

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Sinclair Hammelton

BROMLEY **£835,000**

This substantial detached five bedroom family home is located in a highly sought after tree lined road conveniently situated for Bromley South, offering well proportioned accommodation throughout with two generous reception rooms, kitchen/breakfast room, conservatory and a guest cloakroom.

Bromley 020 8464 5566

BICKLEY **£730,000**

A substantial detached residence which is offering five double bedrooms and measuring a total of 2322 sq ft, The location offers a short walk to Bickley station with bus routes serving Bromley and Chislehurst as well as highly desirable public and private schooling.

Bromley 020 8464 5566

BROMLEY SOUTH **£650,000**

This elegant 6 bed Edwardian property retains many fine period features including, high ceilings, fireplaces and cornicing is situated in the heart of Bromley South. The accommodation is arranged over three floors and offers an impressive 2389 sq ft.

Bromley 020 8464 5566

SHORTLANDS **£615,000**

A most attractive four bedroom detached house with garage, built in the 1930s and offering some period features including a stunning galleried landing and fireplaces. The property is situated within close proximity half a mile of Shortlands Station with services running into London Victoria.

Bromley 020 8464 5566

BROMLEY SOUTH **£465,000**

An impressive three bedroom semi detached family home which was built in 2006 by Skillcrown house builders to a high specification within a exclusive gated development in the heart of the Bromley common conservation area.

Bromley 020 8464 5566

CHATTERTON VILLAGE **£399,995**

Stunning three story four bedroom semi detached period home completely efurbished throughout to offer contemporary decoration with all the modern day requirements, well located for desirable schools and transport links.

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Hyde Vale, Greenwich, SE10

An outstanding and beautifully presented three bedroom end terrace town house. The current owners carried out a meticulous and comprehensive refurbishment of the house in 2006 and the accommodation is arranged over four floors, is both flexible and generous.

£1,150,000

Micheldever Road, Blackheath, SE12

This five bedroom French style semi detached house with Mansard roof, is tastefully decorated and well presented. The property is ideal for the larger family and is sure to tick many boxes. The versatile layout is set over three levels and offers space and light throughout.

£925,000

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Pelton Road, Greenwich, SE10 - Freehold End Of Terrace House - £395,000

VICTORIAN END OF TERRACE HOUSE WITH MANY ORIGINAL FEATURES!!! This very well presented period house is situated within a cul-de-sac style road, located within close proximity to the famous and historic riverside pubs of central Greenwich. Inside this beautiful property you will find a spacious through lounge with under stair storage, good size fitted kitchen with access to private rear garden with built in shed and enough space for a BBQ. You will also find a luxurious modern four piece bathroom suite with shower cubicle and two double sized bedrooms, both presently with fitted wardrobes. This property has many original and unique features, such as brick built fireplaces, wood flooring and original working bread making oven - a truly rare treasure. Residents permit parking is available immediately outside the property, North Greenwich Tube station (Jubilee Line) & O2 Centre are within walking distance or a short bus ride away. Greenwich Town Centre & Royal Park is also walking distance.

Ashburnham Place, Greenwich, SE10 - Freehold End of Terrace House - £775,000

END OF TERRACE VICTORIAN HOUSE WITHIN THE SOUGHT AFTER ASHBURNHAM TRIANGLE CONSERVATION AREA!! Inside this Victorian house, which is spread over three floors, you shall find two good size reception rooms, a very modern fitted kitchen/diner with access to courtyard style garden with plenty of space to host barbecues and entertain guests and under stair storage. Upstairs you will find four double bedrooms, a spacious four piece bathroom suite with shower cubicle and on the top level a shower room with access to balcony/terrace. This period property is very well presented throughout, boasting many original features, presently with gas central heating powered by a combination boiler and is located within the very popular and sought after Ashburnham Triangle Conservation area, which dates back to the late 1700's. Greenwich mainline station and DLR are only moments away on foot and Greenwich Town Centre is a short walk away, where you can enjoy the historic and versatile Greenwich market, all it's quirky shops, bars/restaurants and Cutty Sark. The Royal Park is also moments away where you can enjoy 183 acres of parkland and beautiful outside spaces. A viewing of this amazing home is highly recommended, in order to fully appreciate its attributes.

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COPERS COPE ROAD, BR3 - £259,999

Set in a highly desirable location is this ground floor apartment, with a balcony overlooking well kept gardens, with en-bloc garage. The property comprises fitted kitchen/breakfast room with built in appliances, bathroom, lounge, two bedrooms with en suite shower room to master bedroom. 020 8466 8445.

BLYTHWOOD PARK, BR1 - £249,999

A two bedroom spacious property with 2 bathrooms and private balcony in this popular Blyth Wood Park development. Facilities include secure telephone entry system, lift access, gated parking underground, sauna and gym facilities. Within a 1/4 mile from Bromley Town Centre and easy transport access. 020 8466 8445

HILDENBOROUGH GARDENS , BR1 - £199,995

This three bedroom end of terrace house situated in the quiet road being Hildenborough Gardens. The accommodation comprises two reception rooms, kitchen and cloakroom. The upper floor consists of three bedrooms and family bathroom. Front and rear gardens and garage. Call 020 8466 8445

BLYTH ROAD, BR1 - £199,995

A smart well maintained 2 bedroom flat in a great location for Bromley town centre and rail links. The flat is on the second floor, has 2 bedrooms, a large living room, separate kitchen, white bathroom and hallway with plenty of storage cupboards.Call Ashdale on 020 8466 8445.

SALISBURY ROAD, BR2 - £275,000

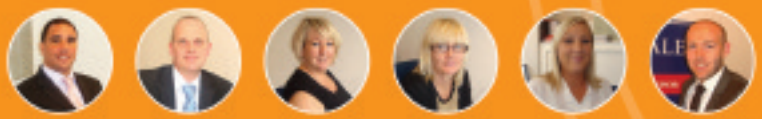
Extended three bedroom Victorian terrace house situated in Salisbury Road, Bickley/Bromley borders. To the ground floor through lounge/dining room, kitchen & family bathroom. To the first floor two double bedrooms & a further double bedroom to the loft conversion. 020 8466 8445.

WINLATON ROAD, BR1 - £144,995

A really delightfully presented one bedroom, second floor (top floor) flat situated in this popular location. Ideal for first time buyer or investment property. The accomodation comprises fitted kitchen, living room with access to the balcony with amazing views, double bedroom and modern bathroom. Lovely communal gardens. 020 8466 8445

MAPLETON CLOSE, BR2 - £195,000

A spacious first floor maisonette, with two double bedrooms in immaculate condition throughout located in the Hayesford Park area. The property is approximately one mile from Bromley Town Centre and a mile and a half from Hayes Village. To view call Ashdale on 020 8466 8445.



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Agent speaks

Catherine Roberts asks what exactly the Olympics mean for East Greenwich

Out on a routine lettings valuation I found myself saying "how much??" It was disbelief at the rental figures being quoted for the London Olympics 2012.

With London having succeeded with their bid, we should now prepare ourselves for the thousands of visitors, press, officials and families for this once in a lifetime opportunity that is coming to your doorstep - the Olympics is to be held in Greenwich Park, East Greenwich, hosting the equestrian.

I was surprised to learn that a local estate agents and an internet based company are offering between £1,600 per week and £10,000 per week for properties dependent upon size, location and desirability. These figures are being offered for a three month period between June 2012 and September 2012. So the question is; what's your property worth? Will this be your cash bonanza? I wonder where this will leave our current rental market and tenants. But the biggest question I asked was who will be able to afford these kinds of rents? Food for thought, but executed correctly, with a reputable estate agent, why not a money making experience for one and all?

With over 5,000 new apartments and houses being built in and around East Greenwich, the excitement is coming to town, with the permission now granted for a dramatic revamp of the neglected Enderby Wharf and Enderby House, by developers West Properties, to be completed by 2012, offering 770 new apartments, homes and over 200 new parking spaces. There will also be a 250 bedroom hotel, retail premises, new jobs, and new residents. Most excitingly, there's the planned cruise liner terminal, which will see up to 1,500 new passengers each time, all at this once neglected site. Thumbs up again for East Greenwich, changing tourism in London forever, and now with the second council agreeing the cable car from Victoria dock to a site located near the 02, and with Greenwich becoming the Royal Borough of Greenwich also in 2012, the excitement is phenomenal.

The question then remains: is 2011 a good or a great year to buy in Greenwich? With the prospects of the above, the sales market should start to become more fruitful in East Greenwich and the surrounding areas. The experts say the sales figures are down by 50% compared to the sales figures from 2006, the main culprit for this being the lack of lending to first time buyers and alike. It's suggested that most new build properties are being sold to overseas investors, mostly for return to the market for rental. With the stamp duty, on the moving higher end of the residential market, increasing in April 2011 by 1%, it would be helpful if sellers ensured their asking price is competitive for today's market. Prospective purchasers should look to Greenwich to seize the window of opportunity.

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Rogue Agent – Warning to Landlords and Tenants

I thought I would share with you this real life story as it may help any landlords or tenants when they are letting or renting a property. Just before Christmas we were instructed to take over the management of 32 properties that had been managed by another agent who recently went into liquidation. I attended the liquidators meeting on behalf of the landlords and it transpires that the agent had been using both landlords rent and tenants deposits as cashflow to finance their ailing business. They now do not have any money left in the client accounts so the landlords and tenants could lose all their funds. Regulated agents have to follow strict guidelines with regards to client accounts and tenant deposits, similar to that of solicitors. By using this money as cashflow for their business is tantamount to fraud. It looks like it could be a long drawn out saga that will involve a police investigation. Here are my top tips when choosing a letting agent.

1. **Make sure they are a member of the NAEA or ARLA. Check the www.naea. co.uk and www.arla.co.uk websites to ensure they are still members.**
2. **Make sure they are a member of a deposit scheme. Again check with them they are members and not just using the logo.**
3. **Check every 6 months that they are still members as members need to submit audited accounts to ensure that their accounts are being managed properly.**

Furthermore, by using a lettings agent regulated by the NAEA or ARLA you are ensured that they have "Client Money Protection Insurance", which means that both tenant and landlords monies are protected regardless of what happens to the firm.

Moral of the story – Always use a regulated agent!

Simon Kyriacou, Director.
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CANONBIE ROAD, SE23 **£750,000 UNDER OFFER**

Perched proudly on Canonbie Rd is this handsome 5 bedroom, double fronted Victorian house on a large plot. The house has plenty of period features and charm and offers a large front garden with OSP and side access. The house offers a panoramic view over the London skyline which on a nice day/evening is breathtaking!

BENSON ROAD, SE23 **£695,000 SOLD**

Be prepared to be wowed by this truly exceptional 5 Bed Edwardian house located on one of Forest Hill's premier roads. The house is a short stroll from the station and the East London Line. It is also in the catchment to the lovely Fairlawn School, Horniman School, Horniman Museum and its beautiful gardens.

NETHERBY ROAD, SE23 **£550,000 UNDER OFFER**

Lovely three bed house in the sought after Horniman area. House has retained many original features including attic stained glass windows, oak turned staircase and four working ornate fireplaces. Bathroom retains marble edging and doors the original paintwork and doorknobs.

CROFTON PARK RD, SE4 **£460,000 UNDER OFFER**

A fantastic 4 bed family home set conveniently on the Honor Oak/Crofton Park borders and only a short walk from both stations. Benefitting from a superb loft conversion this house offers a wonderful contemporary/period mix.

DARFIELD ROAD, SE4 **£385,000 UNDER OFFER**

Set in this quiet residential road in the ever-popular area of Crofton Park is this extremely well-presented 3 Bed period house. The first thing to strike you is the brightness throughout this lovingly restored and tastefully decorated home.

MERRITT RD, SE4 **£295,000 UNDER OFFER**

A stunning period maisonette with its own entrance from the street. The apartment shows off a fantastic double aspect reception which is open to a lovely bright kitchen with an exposed brick feature wall. Both bedrooms are good sized doubles and the bathroom comprises a roll top bath and walk in wet room to the rear.

Pickwick Estates
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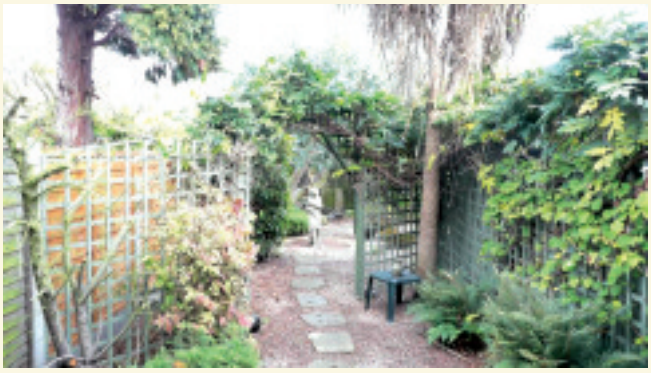
Premier



Blackheath SE3 £319,995

Charming and well presented Three Bedroom Semi Detached family home located on a tree lined residential road. Stunning rear garden with side access, garage and off street parking. One home which is sure to impress all who view!
Contact - Your Move 020 8853 2222

Charlton SE7 £200,000 - £220,000

Well presented Ground floor conversion flat offered in good decorative order having gone through a programme of works. Boasts Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms and Family Bathroom. Also benefits from Private Rear Garden and No Onward Chain.
Contact - Your Move 020 8853 2222

Woolwich SE18 £200,000

RIVERSIDE DEVELOPMENT
Well presented Two Bedroom Fifth Floor Apartment with balcony offering views onto The Thames. Boasts Lounge with open plan kitchen, En-Suite Shower Room to Master Bedroom. Vacant Possession and No Onward Chain.
Contact - Your Move 020 8853 2222

Blackheath SE3 £399,995

Three Bedroom house situated in a Victorian Terrace within 1/4 mile of Blackheath Royal Standard with all its local shops and amenities. One Family home which needs to be seen to fully appreciate its wealth of features.
Contact - Your Move 020 8853 2222

Deptford SE8 £1,650 PCM

New build 2 bedroom apartments either furnished or unfurnished. Benefits include a communal roof terrace with river views and underground parking.
Contact - Your Move 020 8853 2222

Lee SE12 £1,050 PCM

Two bedroom maisonette in excellent condition throughout. Lovely fitted kitchen with white goods. 3 piece bathroom suite. Walking distance of Kidbrooke Station. Offered unfurnished
Contact - Your Move 020 8853 2222

OFFICES

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Telegraph Hill SE14 £575,000

Set within a prestigious road within Telegraph Hill is this Four/Five Bedroom three storey period family home. The property comprises of Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Conservatory and large cellar. A delightful family home having been well maintained by the current owner.
Contact - Your Move 020 7639 1103

Forest Hill SE23 £550,000

Beautifully presented Semi Detached family home situated opposite Brenchley Gardens. The property has an abundance of period style features and a stunning rear garden. Other benefits include Lounge with open plan Dining Room, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms and First floor family Bathroom.
Contact - Your Move 020 7639 1103

West Kingsdown TN15 £750,000

Beautifully presented Four/Five Bedroom Residence located on one of the more desirable roads within West Kingsdown. The property offers versatile accommodation and includes Equestrian Facilities, Stable Block and Paddock. A stunning home which needs to be seen.
Contact - Your Move 01322 663 271

Swanley BR8 £2,500,000

A unique Four Bedroom detached family home located on an extensive plot which includes a four bedroom Oasthouse and working Yard and Barn.
The plot is surrounded by countryside giving rural views across fields. This home delivers on all levels and needs to be seen to be fully appreciated.
Contact - Your Move 01322 663 271

Woolwich SE18 £850 PCM

Two bedroom third floor apartment with river view. Situated within easy reach of British rail and London transport. The property is offered unfurnished.
Contact - Your Move 020 8853 2222

Woolwich SE18 £850 PCM

Two bedroom apartment situated overlooking the River Thames with views of The Thames Barrier and Canary Wharf. Easy reach of British rail and London transport.
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Quentin Road SE13 £420,000 S/O F/H

A superb first floor 3 bedroom flat in a beautiful Victorian building on this pretty and popular road close to Blackheath Village. The flat has excellent lateral space, a wonderful natural light flow and retains many period features.

Thornwood Road SE13 £595,000 F/H

Impressively renovated 4 bedroom Victorian terrace house in popular road close to Manor House Gardens. Lovely living and entertaining space with period French doors opening to rear garden. Wood framed conservatory/dining room off galley style kitchen.

Eastbrook Road SE3 Guide Price £1million F/H

An imposing 4 storey semi-detached Victorian house offering spacious family accommodation. 5 bedrooms, family bathroom, shower room, 2 large receptions, superb kitchen/breakfast room, utility, large landscaped garden. Driveway with off-street parking. Many period features.

Glenluce Road SE3 £1.75 million F/H

A beautifully restored double-fronted detached 6 bedroom Victorian house with contemporary finishes and original restored fireplaces. Spectacular Poggenpohl/Miele kitchen. Cinema room. Landscaped 3 tier garden. Off-street parking.

Quentin Road SE13 £750,000 F/H

A beautifully refurbished three storey Victorian town house. There are 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, double reception, eat-in kitchen, cellar, converted loft and small patio garden. Situated in a very popular road close to Blackheath Village.

Park Vista SE10 £1.15 million F/H

Georgian 4 bedroom house situated directly opposite the gates of Greenwich Park, enjoying views into the park from the upper floors. Well-proportioned rooms retaining many period features, 2 reception rooms and open plan living/dining & kitchen area.

Blackheath 020 8297 1697
Greenwich 020 8858 1102

Moving times

This month's hottest properties and market news

Vanbrugh Castle, SE10

Adjacent to the gates of Royal Greenwich Park is this unique home forming part of the Grade I-listed castle designed by Sir John Vanbrugh. Enjoying amazing views across the park and acres of gardens and woods to share at the rear, the property also benefits from four bedrooms, three bathrooms, an incredible 31' drawing room, and a custom built kitchen/family room.

On the market at £1.75 million from Kershaws on 020 8297 2922

Micheldever Road, SE12

King Sturge are delighted to offer for sale this exceptional five bedroom French style semi-detached house built c1890 with Mansard roof, and situated in the heart of the Lee Conservation Area and within the Brindishe school catchment area. This tastefully presented home would be ideal for the larger family and ticks many boxes.

£925,000 from King Sturge Blackheath office on 020 8852 8383

Celebrating the easier move

With an extensive knowledge of the local property market in Greenwich, Eltham and Charlton, Conran Estates has just made home buying and selling much easier through a partnership with Clear. Clear is a legal technology company that is working with Conran Estates to streamline the conveyancing process.

Anyone who has ever bought or sold a house will know how stressful and uncertain the current process is. Your destiny is in the hands of lawyers who can be hard to contact, use technical legal terms and often find a reason that you can't get to the next stage of the transaction easily. Not only is this frustrating and stressful, but it leads to millions of wasted pounds each year in transactions falling through. Conran Estates have made this easier with a new online conveyancing system that helps the seller provide all the data that a buyer's solicitor will need, at the point that the property is put on the market.

"Conran Estates is proud to be leading the way to help consumers," comments Simon Hughes, Director of Conran Estates. "We spend a great deal of time looking at the best ways to improve the home buying and selling process for consumers, as moving home can be a very stressful time for people. Our Clear process will make sale properties more attractive to buyers and easier and quicker for everyone."

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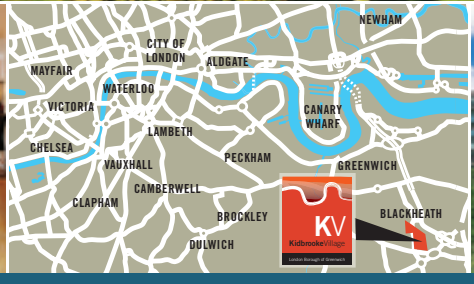

City Point, the first phase at Kidbrooke Village has arrived.
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Kidbrooke Village. For London. For everyone.

Prices and details correct at time of going to press. Computer Generated Image of City Point at Kidbrooke Village. Photography depicts typical interior from previous Berkeley development. *Journey times are approximate only. www.tfl.gov.uk. Map not to scale.

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GARDEN ROAD BROMLEY

An unusual Victorian house creating a wonderful feeling of light and space. Having gone through an extensive programme of refurbishment and extension this palatial family house offers all the modern day amenities of a 21st century home without losing the grace and charm of a bygone era.

Features include a fantastic kitchen/diner with luxury fitted units. A double glazed glass roof over the dining area floods the room with natural light. A cellar provides ample storage space and above the copious double garage is a gym. The rest of the accommodation includes seven bedrooms, five modern bathrooms and three reception rooms. The location is excellent being close to Sundridge Park station and golf course. early viewing is highly recommended.

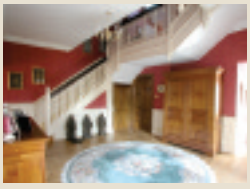
Contact: **office 020 8325 0230** £1,450,000 guide price

CHURCH ROW CHISLEHURST

Period homes in the heart of Chislehurst are always a scarce commodity, hence we are delighted to offer this fine example situated in one of Chislehurst's most popular locations overlooking The Common with Chislehurst Station about a mile away with its excellent rail links to town.

A delightful home that must be seen.Sympathetically extended by the current owners there is excellent family accommodation with five bedrooms and three bathrooms and two spacious reception rooms are complimented by a superb large open plan kitchen/dining room overlooking the garden. Double garage Just around the corner from Royal Parade with its selection of shops and restaurants makes it an incredibly convenient place to live.

Contact: **office 020 8325 0230** £1,495,000 guide price



MANOR PARK ROAD CHISLEHURST

A beautiful Grade II listed period house in a sought after location. The original property is believed to have been built in the 1750's with a later Victorian addition so original features are plentiful. Sympathetically refurbished accommodation to provide a spacious family home.

The layout is ideal for a family as the children can occupy the large family room at the front of the house, whilst the grown ups can relax in the panelled sitting room, dining room and Mark Wilkinson fitted kitchen, all to the rear, overlooking the delightful south facing garden. Study with fitted Neville Johnson furniture. Master bedroom suite that takes your breath away, with its scale and ornate ceiling plus ensuite bathroom and dressing room. Three further bedrooms, bathroom and shower room complete the upstairs accommodation. Garage and parking.

Contact: **office 020 8325 0230** £1,350,000 guide price

ST GEORGES ROAD BICKLEY

An amazing home! This attractive property – the major wing of one of the original Bickley Estate houses – is believed to have been designed by Charles Quennell. Dating from around 1907 the house has the original stunning double height reception hall with galleried landing as well as principal reception rooms.

The house sits on a 0.5 acre plot and has plenty of accommodation with six bedrooms and three bathrooms. The current owners have really enjoyed their 25 years at the property, and say it has been a fabulous house for entertaining. There is an abundance of storage and fitted wardrobes to the bedrooms. With a wide plot and attached double garage, there is scope to extend, subject to planning and the westerly aspect rear garden is perfect for the outdoor swimming pool. Bickley and Chislehurst Stations are within approx 0.5 mile.

Contact: **office 020 8325 0230** Offers in excess of £1,500,000

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BLACKHEATH SE3 **PRICE £1,750,000 SHARE OF FREEHOLD**

Grade I listed house forming part of Vanbrugh castle adjacent to Greenwich Park. 30' dual aspect reception room with commanding views of London and the Park, Kitchen opening directly out to the gardens, master bedroom suite inc dressing & shower room, three further bedrooms, bathroom and shower room. Office. Over 2 acres of shared gardens & o/s parking.

CATOR ESTATE £1,200,000 FREEHOLD

Link detached house in the heart of the Cator Estate. 4 beds 2 baths, 3 rec, kitchen cloakroom, garage 70' south facing garden. O/S/P. Granted permission to extend.

MORDEN HILL £525,000 FREEHOLD

A substantial 1930s house requiring refurbishment in this sought after residential road just off the heath and within 1/2 mile of mainline and DLR stations.

CATOR ESTATE £450,000 FREEHOLD

Three bedroom span house set in a walled garden within ½ mile of the Village and station. Living room, fitted kitchen/diner, bathroom & sep wc. Garden.

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Wemyss Road SE3 £1,250,000

An exquisite four bedroom, four storey Victorian family home, located within the very heart of Blackheath village. The property boasts an abundance of period character and charm and comes with a beautiful and secluded south facing garden.

Duke Humphrey Road SE3 Offers over £415,000

A lovely 2 double bedroom 2nd floor apartment in Blackheath Village with views across the open Heath. This bright accommodation consists of a spacious lounge, fitted and equipped kitchen, 2 double bedrooms and bathroom with shower facility. Neutral decor, full gas central heating, entry phone system and garage en-bloc.

Lewisham Hill SE3 Guide price £390,000

This bright and spacious two bedroom Victorian garden flat boasts generous living space, modern kitchen and large conservatory/dining room and is offered onto the market chain free. The property is presented in excellent order and is conveniently located for the DLR and Lewisham mainline station and offers a share of the freehold.

Station Crescent SE3 Offers over £285,000

A recently built two bedroom apartment located near Westcombe Park Station and amenities. The property is well presented and comprises open plan lounge/kitchen, double bedroom with built in wardrobes and balcony, single bedroom, modern bathroom, w/c with shower, utility room with washing machine and dryer. Solid oak flooring throughout.

heath ESTATES

Langton Way £3,900pcm

Superb location in a private road just yards from the open heath an exceptional new architect designed 5 bedroom detached property, arranged over three floors. shower w/c, two further double bedrooms, large family bathroom with separate shower cubical. Benefits and features include off street parking via electronic gates, pretty garden, security alarm system top quality fittings, solid wood floors throughout.

Kidbrooke Grove SE3 £1,600pcm

A superb two double bedroom two bathroom split level conversion flat situated in one of the most sought after tree lined roads in Blackheath, a short walk away from Blackheath Village and the open Heath

Westcombe Park Road SE3 £2,700pcm

A stunning totally refurbished 2 double bedroom two bathroom garden floor conversion flat forming part of an imposing period house, next to Greenwich Park and close to Maze Hill BR station

Eliot Hill SE13 £1,350pcm

Close to the open heath and 5 mins walk to Mainline and DLR stations, this beautiful and exceptionally spacious first floor conversion boasts turret style bay window, feature fireplace and stripped wood floors.

Invicta Road SE3 £1,375pcm

Brand new contemporary two bedroom first floor flat situated at Blackheath Standard. Featuring state of the art kitchen and bathroom, large open plan lounge with own decked balcony and two good size bedrooms.

23 Montpelier Vale, Blackheath, London SE3 0TJ Tel: 020 8463 9955

John Payne

johnpayne.com

Lee Road, Blackheath, SE3

Guide Price £1,750,000 Freehold

A stunning Grade II listed Georgian double-fronted family home circa 1828 approached via a large gravelled drive and benefiting from a beautiful 250ft landscaped rear garden. Situated on Lee Road, the property is less than half a mile from Blackheath Village with its vast array of shops and restaurants and mainline station.

Internally the accommodation is of charming family proportions comprising five double bedrooms, two bathrooms plus shower room, elegant 31ft through drawing room, TV room, study, dining room, spacious kitchen, utility room, large garage, splendid rear garden extending to over 250ft in two manageable sections, beautifully maintained and stocked. Many original features including superb windows and original cornicework.

Contact John Payne Blackheath Village branch **020 8318 1311**

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Greenwich Branch
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The Coach House, SE3

Price £625,000 Freehold

An idyllic detached cottage, secluded and set back down a long gravelled driveway. Beautifully landscaped garden, garage, large light reception with spiral staircase, spacious master suite with balcony and en suite bathroom, additional downstairs shower room, stylish contemporary kitchen open plan to an impressive conservatory-style dining room with full width folding doors on to the garden.

Contact John Payne Blackheath Village branch **020 8318 1311**

Park Vista, Greenwich, SE10

Price £1,150,000 Freehold

A well presented four storey, Grade II Listed Georgian house situated within this envious location directly opposite Greenwich Royal Park. Comprising four bedrooms, two semi-open plan living rooms, two bathrooms, gardens to front and rear & with many period features. Just a few hundred yards from Maze Hill mainline station and a very short walk to historic Greenwich Village with its many restaurants, wine bars and craft markets, together with access to the Docklands Light Railway at Cutty Sark providing frequent services to Canary Wharf.

John Payne Greenwich **020 8858 9911**

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